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**EDITED BY
JERRY GREEN
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PRO STARS WRITE

"You're Going to Get Hurt"	By Mel Farr, Detroit Lions	16
Joe Namath	By Babe Parilli, New York Jets	24
Frustration in the Line of Duty	By Tom Mack, Los Angeles Rams	62
11-Man Theme	By Dan Conners, Oakland Raiders	94

SPORTFACTS PREDICTS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE	27
------------------------------------	----

EAST/CENTURY DIVISION

Cleveland Browns	28
St. Louis Cardinals	30
New York Giants	32
Pittsburgh Steelers	34

WEST/COASTAL DIVISION

Baltimore Colts	44
Los Angeles Rams	46
San Francisco 49ers	48
Atlanta Falcons	50

AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE	73
------------------------------------	----

WESTERN DIVISION

Oakland Raiders	74
Kansas City Chiefs	76
San Diego Chargers	78
Denver Broncos	80
Cincinnati Bengals	82

EAST/CAPITOL DIVISION

Dallas Cowboys	36
Washington Redskins	38
Philadelphia Eagles	40
New Orleans Saints	42

WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION

Green Bay Packers	52
Minnesota Vikings	54
Detroit Lions	56
Chicago Bears	58

EASTERN DIVISION

New York Jets	84
Houston Oilers	86
Buffalo Bills	88
Miami Dolphins	90
Boston Patriots	92

SPORTFACTS EXTRAS

A Different Breed	6
Vintage Crops	19
Season-Long Schedule-Scorecard, NFL/AFL	66
Quarterback, Pack Your Bag!	68

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A DIFFERENT BREED

How come nobody knows Broadway Jim, the real hero of the Super Bowl?

The locker room was bedlam. They pressed around Joe Namath. "How'd you do it Joe? You said you would, we believe you now, Joe, tell us about it?"

The Jets had won the Super Bowl. They were World Champions. They had achieved the upset of the age, beaten the mighty Baltimore Colts, brought the AFL up to parity. The Jets had humbled the Colts by nine points, 16-7.

Somewhere in the beastly hot room was Jim Turner. Nobody bothered him. He was perhaps on a bench, watching the confusion, or in the shower. Who cared?

Only that afternoon Jim Turner had kicked field goals of 32, 30 and nine yards. Nothing special. Place-kickers make field goals like that all the time.

Three field goals. . . say, they come up to nine points. . . nine points? . . . say, that was the margin by which the Jets beat the Colts. How come nobody dubbed him Broadway Jim Turner?

Jim Turner can play backup quarterback in an emergency. But his

Jim Turner kicked three field goals and a PAT in the Super Bowl.



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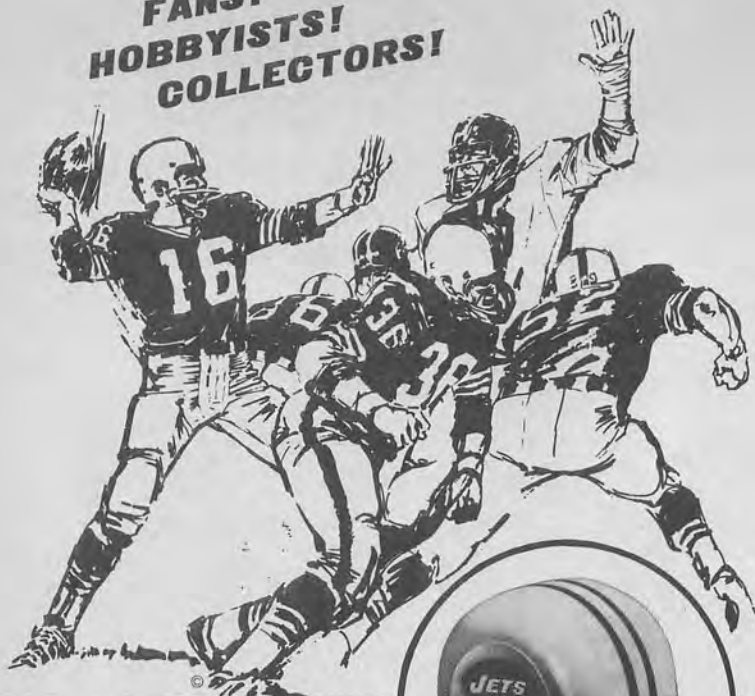
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A DIFFERENT BREED/continued

value is in his foot. He kicked 34 field goals last year, which is a pro football record. In one game Turner kicked six three-pointers.

Placekickers—most of them anyway—are a different breed. Turner's difference is he has 12 different pairs of square-toed shoes with which to kick his field goals.

There are all kinds of placekickers. Some kick soccer style, others with their toes.

Jan Stenerud, of the Kansas City Chiefs, is a soccer stylist who comes from Norway. He came to the United States on an athletic scholarship at Montana State. It was a skiing scholarship.

Pete Gogolak was the first soccer style kicker. He helped the Buffalo Bills win an AFL championship. Then he jumped to the NFL and the New York Giants. His jump caused widespread threats of retaliation by the AFL. It became the catalyst in the NFL-AFL merger.

Garo Yepremian was born on Cyprus. One day he walked into the Detroit Lions' practice and showed how he could kick a football, soccer style. Four days later, on the following Sunday, the first action Yepremian ever saw in a professional football game was his own leg making the opening kickoff. Upon kicking, Yepremian turned around and bent over to pick up the kicking tee while the Colts charged toward him from behind on the return.

At the end of the 1967 football, a man integral to the long success of the Green Bay Packers announced his retirement. This retirement was destructive to the Packers in 1968, their dynasty ended and they could not even play .500 football.

The retiree's name was not Vince Lombardi. It was Don Chandler, whose retirement as placekicker was far more damaging than Lombardi's retirement as the Packers' head coach.

Chandler had kicked four field goals in the 1968 Super Bowl before retiring. By the mid-point of the 1968 season, the Packers had lost four games they might have won with superior placekicking. By then the Packers tried four kickers, six if training camp was included. The

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A DIFFERENT BREED/continued

players themselves attempted to persuade Chandler out of retirement. They made no such overtures to Lombardi.

Jerry Kramer, Chuck Mercein and Errol Mann were the first three kickers during the season. Mann's chief claim was he kicked the two field goals in the six-point victory that enabled Denver to beat Detroit in the first AFL over NFL conquest in the 1967 pre-season. But Mann didn't even manage to stick with Denver after that.

Finally, the Packers located Mike Mercer and he remains their kicker this year. Mercer is typical of many kickers—a vagabond. He started with Minnesota in the NFL. He was released and signed with Oakland in the AFL. He again was released and signed with Buffalo. Then Buffalo traded him to Kansas City. He kicked a field goal against the Packers in the first Super Bowl. Shortly thereafter, Kansas City traded him back to Buffalo. Each time a draft choice was the exchange. Nobody bothered to investigate the loan of a placekicker.

Placekickers, for a large part, are non-athletes. Lou Groza was one exception. He played tackle for the Browns for many years. When he could no longer play tackle, he could still kick. He kicked for the Browns for 21 seasons, retiring only last year in his mid-40s.

Then there was Ben Agajanian, who was the prototype of the modern kicker. He was different because he had lost some toes on his kicking foot. But he owned a square-toed shoe and liked to travel.

Agajanian started in the NFL in 1945 with Pittsburgh. He went to Philadelphia the same season. Then he went to the Los Angeles Dons in the old All-America Conference, twice was with the Giants, spent a year with the Rams. In 1960 the AFL was founded and Agajanian was with the Los Angeles Chargers, his third LA affiliation in his third pro league. Before deciding to hang up his kicking shoe, Agajanian kicked for the Dallas Texans in the AFL and for the Packers in the NFL in 1961, migrated to Oakland and finally finished in 1964 with the Chargers. By then the Chargers had switched to San Diego.

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A DIFFERENT BREED/continued

A couple of years ago the Dallas Cowboys scoured the nation in quest of a kicker. They organized a Kicking Karavan, which roamed from place to place holding tryouts. They lured farmboys, school teachers, truck drivers—everything but housewives. At one stop, a bus driver halted his vehicle, picked up his coin changer, walked over to the tryout and kicked. Then he returned to the bus, smiled at his passengers and resumed their journey.

Well, there was one housewife who applied. Her name was Lady Jane Percival and she lived in the Dallas suburb of South Garland. Her husband, Mac, taught high school math. Lady Jane entered her husband's name. Mac Percival and another kicker, Harold Deters, reached the semifinals of the Cowboys' contest. The final was to be settled in an exhibition with Green Bay. Percival missed a couple of pressure kicks. Deters won the contest.

The Cowboys, though, traded Percival to the Bears. Last year Mac Percival won three games for the Bears. He kicked five field goals in a victory over the Eagles. He beat the Vikings with a 47-yarder in the final three seconds. He beat the Packers with a 43-yarder, on a free kick, in the final 20 seconds.

"I don't guess I'd have tried out if Lady Jane hadn't called," said Percival. "I was pretty irritated when I found out, but I've forgiven her."

And Harold Deters, winner of the Kicking Karavan contest? He wound up a school teacher.

Booth Lusteg was an actor who wanted to be a placekicker. He had been a waiter and also a school teacher, which apparently has some connection with becoming a kicker. Lusteg had a tryout with the Jets, but failed. He went to the New Bedford Sweepers in a minor league. There a legend was born about Lusteg. The story was he walked all the way back to Boston from New Bedford, a substantial hike, as self-punishment for missing a placekick. The story, supposedly, is only partially true.

Lusteg eventually was signed by Buffalo. One day he missed a field goal from the 12. After the game he

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A DIFFERENT BREED/continued

was walking through the streets and two fans jumped from a car and started punching him.

Eventually, Lusteg wandered to Miami, where he was cut. Now he is with Pittsburgh. The Steelers signed him last year after trading Mike Clark to Dallas. In an early game, Lusteg missed two extra points. Soon there was the game in which Pittsburgh faced Philadelphia, both teams with identical records—all losses. Early, Lusteg missed a 22-yard field goal. Later he made one, as did Sam Baker for the Eagles. In the final minutes the Eagles tried a run on a fourth-down play at their own 10. They failed. Lusteg won the game for Pittsburgh, 6-3—two field goals to one. The Eagles continued on until their losing streak was 11. In the 12th game, the Eagles won in Detroit. The score was 12-0. Baker kicked four

field goals for all the points. Earlier in the year Baker had missed three extra points in one game. But he also threw a touchdown pass on a fake field goal attempt.

Cincinnati had a kicker named Dale Livingston, who was the Bengals' most potent offensive weapon until he went into the Marines. Livingston had played for Western Michigan, where the coach discovered him on the intramural fields. He told the coach he couldn't play in the games because he played in the band. The coach insisted. For a while Livingston put on a football uniform, and at halftime rushed out to play with the band.

A few years ago Wayne Walker had kicked a field goal that tied a game for the Lions. The Bears started marching back downfield. With 16 seconds left, using their timeouts advantageously to get in more plays, the Bears reached the Lions' 15. They

were preparing to kick the tie-breaking field goal. But suddenly the man running the television presentation dictated a TV timeout.

During the minute-long wait, Walker crossed over to converse with Roger Leclerc, the Bears' kicker.

"It's tough, Roger, don't tighten, you might blow it, Roger," said Walker as the wait increased the tension on his counterpart.

When the game was permitted to resume, Roger Leclerc attempted the routine field goal of some 22 yards. The ball slithered away, a dying quail, and plopped at about the 10 yard line. A huge chunk of sod flew farther than the ball.

Field goals are a vital part of pro football, and placekickers are some of its great heroes and goats. Some day somebody will realize what Jim Turner's nine points in the Super Bowl meant to the history of pro football.



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By Mel Farr
Running Back
Detroit Lions

“YOU’RE GOING TO GET HURT”

Before embarking on his rookie season with the Detroit Lions, Mel Farr listed some of his ambitions. He wanted to be a starter that first season; he wanted to earn a million dollars in his career; he wanted to be Rookie of the Year; and he wanted to join the exclusive 1,000 Yard Club.

There was never any question he'd be a starter as a rookie. He runs well enough to amass a million dollars in his career—provided he can keep playing. He was unanimously chosen as Rookie of the Year. But in two seasons he has been short of gaining 1,000 yards, a figure reached by only 13 NFL runners and nine in the AFL.

Mel Farr has been short only because of injuries that caused him to miss games in each of his pro seasons. Last year he was the NFL's leading runner, gaining far above 1,000-yard ratio, when he wrecked his knee midway in the season. The Lions were leading the Central Division when they lost Farr. Without him, they could win only one game of their last eight. In this article, Farr discloses a new ambition and some vital thoughts about the dangers of being a running back.

I want to play 14 games. That's my ambition now—to play a whole season. If I could play 14 games, the other things would take care of themselves.

Look this up if you want, but here are some statistical facts based on the 1967 and 1968 seasons, the two I've been in the league: Last year, five of

the top 10 running backs from the season before required surgery to repair injuries. That's a fact—Gale Sayers, Les Josephson, Junior Coffey, Dave Osborn and I were in the top 10 in '67 and on the operating table in '68. All of us but Josephson had knee injuries, and we can add Danny Reeves to that list.

That's why we ask for more money . . . and that's one reason O.J. Simpson demanded so much. Our life span is the shortest of all the members of the team, because we take the physical punishment. There's a lot of glory to being a running back and stuff like that. But a lot of people don't know the physical punishment you take running through a line every Sunday. That's why I'm amazed at the physical stamina Jim Brown had playing in the league as many years as he did and doing as good a job as he did. He never had a real serious injury.

I guess he was lucky. You've got to say he was lucky. I don't care how strong you are, if you play so many games, eventually you're going to get it. I've hurt my nose, ankle, toe and thigh as a rookie and my ankle and then my knee last year. I don't know if the reason is that I'm not tough enough or if I'm unlucky. But I can't feel too badly about it because I've played. If I were in Nick Eddy's position, I could feel worse. Nick and I came up together and were supposed to be a backfield together with the Lions. We've still never run one play together in a regular season game. We hope to this year. Nick hasn't had



***The Lions' premier ball carrier
writes about injuries and how
some of them can be eliminated***

That's the author, Mel Farr, 24, below. Above right
is durable Leroy Kelly. Bottom right is Gale Sayers.





Near right is Mel Farr's brother, Miller, who is a star defensive back for Houston in the AFL. Far right is Bobby Mitchell of the Redskins, who added years to his career by moving from running back to wide receiver.

was it. I didn't know I was hurt when he tackled me. He pulled a shoe off and I was sitting on the grass lacing my shoe up and was going to run back into the huddle when my knee locked. It started locking from then on. The day before the game out in Los Angeles I was in my hotel room and got up out of a seat to reach for a Coke on the desk and my knee locked again. I tried to play in the Minnesota game and it locked a couple of times again, so they operated.

There's no way for running backs to avoid getting hurt. You can get your body in top physical condition, but from then on it's either you're tough or you're lucky. How good your team is means a lot, too. If you have a poor front line and you're giving it all, running in there recklessly, and somebody blows an assignment or gets beat physically, you're going to be punished. You're the one who will get the beating. You'll get punished worse than an average back behind a good line.

There is a way to eliminate some of the injuries. . . I think they should put that Astroturf or Tartan turf in. That should be mandatory around the league because it's been proven there are fewer injuries on it. Especially knee injuries. On grass, we wear long cleats. On the synthetic turf, backs wear shorter cleats, and they have a tendency to give. You'd have no dirt spots in the field, no freezing of the field to worry about.

I know artificial turf is costly, but if you can stop an injury to a guy like Gale Sayers it's to the advantage of the team to put it down. My brother Miller plays with the Oilers and they play in the Astrodome, and he loves it. I'm waiting for the day that I play against my brother when we start playing AFL teams. We both are. But we're talking about fields and there are some terrible fields. Baltimore's field is one of the worst. It's so hard, up and down hilly, not much grass. The same with the Lions' field. We practice on it every day. This has got to cause injuries. You're running full speed and twist an ankle like I did. I hurt mine on a soft part at the infield. They had a late start putting in the grass sod to cover the baselines because of the World Series in Detroit last year. The grass was loose, it hadn't taken root

a chance to do anything. He's had three knee injuries and two operations. He didn't get into a season game with the Lions until after my knee operation last year.

So I can say our life span as runners is shorter than players at any other position. You take a defensive end, he can play 10 years, a good 10 years, and still be great at it like Willie Davis and Deacon Jones. You can take an offensive tackle, 12 years and he can still be good at it. A quarterback, you can take 14 years and still be good at it. Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Jack Kemp, Babe Parilli—they've been in pro football years and years and they've even been hurt, but they're still great quarterbacks. It's different with a running back simply because of the punishment. Take a split end, they last about 10 years and they're still real good. Bobby Mitchell, he moved out to flanker and he added four more years to his career. Most of us runners are fortunate to survive six or seven seasons.

Like Jim Brown when he retired. He was great then, but I think he felt himself slowing up some. I guess he was tired of that physical beating every Sunday for nine years. I would like to play seven, eight years at the most. Then I'm going to give it up. I know I said 10 years when I was a rookie. The game changed my mind.

I'd feel I'd be about 45 years old after eight years in the league with four, five guys tackling me every time I carry the ball.

If I stayed healthy one year I really couldn't say how many yards I'd gain. I just know I could have a helluva year. The thing in the NFL is, you've got to be durable. Like Leroy Kelly. He's done it for 14 games. Gale's done it. Jim Brown did it all the time. All the guys who've gained 1,000 yards have done it. You're not going to gain 1,000 yards playing 10 games or six or seven games like I did last year.

The funny thing with my knee injury was it came on a freak play. I've been hit a lot harder than Matt Hazeltine hit me when he tackled me that Sunday against the 49ers. I was past him and he grabbed ahold of my foot. I had a bad ankle, the one I'd hurt against Green Bay the week before. I didn't practice all week. I couldn't run. Sundays you get the excitement of the crowd and the adrenalin gets going. I went out there and warmed up. I told myself it would hurt to start off but forget about the pain. But it didn't happen that way. I ran two plays and about the third or fourth play of the game I was going around end. They blocked Hazeltine, but because of my ankle I wasn't quick enough to turn the corner. He got me on the leg, tore a cartilage and that

continued on page 99



How does the rookie

class of '68 stack up

against the best?

What does '69 look like?

It happens every fall. Close to the end of the college football season, people start asking the professional scouts the same question. "What kind of a year is it for talent?"

Almost to a man, the scouts' answer is: "Terrible. There aren't a dozen good prospects in the whole country. I've never seen such a bad year."

It's a little game the ivory hunters play. It has something to do with job security. If the players they recommend drafting turn out to have a pair of left feet or anchors in their britches, the scout can say, "See. I told you it was a bad year for talent." If his draftees develop into whizzes, the scout blushes demurely when he's called a genius.

The truth is that there are, indeed, terrible years for draftable talent. But there also are vintage years.

Take the year 1957.

The National Football league was stocked with a generation of stars from just this one draft. The Philadelphia Eagles made themselves a contender and, by 1960, the NFL champion from just one day of picking. Their No. 1 selection was Clarence Peaks of Michi-

VINTAGE CROPS

Two of the NFL's top rookies during the 1968 campaign are shown above. At top is Claude Humphrey, 87, of the Atlanta Falcons. Below him is Earl McCullouch, speedy receiver for the Detroit Lions.



The Kansas City Chiefs chose Robert Holmes, 45, on the 14th round. He was second in the AFL in ground gaining last year. Here he gets ready to meet rookie Al Beauchamp of the Bengals.

gan State. No. 2 was Billy Barnes of Wake Forest, No. 3 the exciting little Tommy McDonald of Oklahoma and No. 4 a hotshot quarterback by the name of Adolph (Sonny) Jurgensen of Duke.

What it spelled was offense, with a capital touchdown.

The Los Angeles Rams then, as now, knew how to draft. It appeared as if they had access to some sort of time capsule. No. 2 for the Rams was Jack Pardee of Texas A&M, still a fine linebacker for them. In the fourth round they selected Purdue's Lamar Lundy, still a member of the most feared front four in football, 13 years later. On the third round came tackle Billy Ray Smith of Arkansas and on the 25th, a flakey end from Georgia named Jimmy Orr. Both were in the starting lineup

for Baltimore last fall when the Colts won the NFL title.

That wasn't all. The Rams also picked Del Shofner, one of the all-time great receivers, and Jon Arnett, the Gale Sayers of his day, in the first round.

The year 1957 also was the year the Colts picked up Ohio State's Jim Parker, who became an all-time, All-Pro tackle; linebacker Don Shinnick, a starter through last year's championship campaign; and a valuable defensive back, Andy Nelson. Washington has enjoyed few bright moments up to the Lombardi era, but some of them were provided by fullback Don Bosseler, and Joe Walton and halfback Jim Podoley, all drafted that year. San Francisco drafted their present quar-

terback and kicker, John Brodie and Tommy Davis, in '57, along with Abe Woodson, John Thomas, Jim Ridlon and Fred Dugan, long useful pros.

Green Bay laid the groundwork for a dynasty, drafting Notre Dame star Paul Hornung and tight end Ron Kramer, Cleveland helped itself along by picking Virginia's defensive tackle Henry Jordan, who was later sent packing to the Packers in a questionable trade.

Even the '57 rejects were worthwhile.

Detroit was so pleased by three future All-Pros it had drafted—defensive end Bill Glass, guard John Gordy and flanker Terry Barr—that its coaches paid scant attention to a freckle-faced quarterback it plucked

from Occidental in the 17th round. The quarterback, Jack Kemp, still is playing for the Buffalo Bills.

New York's ninth pick still is making headlines in Manhattan, but for another team. Don Maynard is among the principal assets of the World Champion Jets.

But 1957 is best known as the year the Pittsburgh Steelers made a monumental mistake. If they hadn't made it, however, Cleveland would have made a bigger one. The Browns were in one of their rare dilemmas that year. They had finished with a 5-7 record in '56, largely because they had no quarterback to speak of. When draft time came, they decided to take Purdue's brilliant passer, Lenny Dawson. But Pittsburgh, drafting one turn in front of the Browns, also needed a quarterback. They picked Dawson. Cleveland, disappointed, settled on a fullback from Syracuse University. His name was Jimmy Brown.

"There will never be a draft like that again," said the pro scouts when the American League was formed in 1960 and became a fierce competitor for college talent.

In the second year of that competition, teams in both leagues enjoyed a draft that still is bearing fruit.

Baltimore's first and third draft picks from that year, Tom Matte and Jerry Hill, were the starting running backs for the champion Colts last year. Green Bay plucked Herb Adderley, Ron Kostelnik and Elijah Pitts.

Kansas City (then the Dallas Texans) prepared itself for the seasons to come by acquiring linebacker-center E.J. Holub, offensive tackle Jim Tyrer, defensive end Jerry Mays, tight end Fred Arbanas and fullback Curtis McClinton. Buffalo picked Ken Rice, Billy Shaw, Stew Barber and Al Bemiller, all offensive linemen. Shaw, Barber and Bemiller still make up three-fifths of the Bills' line.

The Minnesota Vikings went into business that year and chose wisely. They took halfback Tommy Mason, linebacker Rip Hawkins, quarterback Fran Tarkenton, kicker Mike Mercer and defensive back Chuck Lamson—all of whom gave them immediate help.

San Diego won a couple of titles on the basis of picking Earl Faison, Ernie Ladd, Keith Lincoln, Bud Whitehead and Chuck Allen.

It wasn't a bad year for sleepers, either. In the 14th round the Los Angeles Rams went for an obscure tackle from South Carolina State named

David Jones. The AFL didn't even bother to draft him. He didn't turn out too badly. They call him Deacon today. He devours quarterbacks.

When the two leagues merged in 1966, the common draft came into being. "It'll be harder than ever to get talent," said the scouts. "Too few guys as it is. Now they're spread among 26 teams."

It's too soon to make any long-range judgments, but off the early returns, it would appear that the second common draft, the class of '68, will be remembered as one of the better draws in recent years. Here's the rundown:

ATLANTA—The Falcons' No. 1 draft choice, Claude Humphrey, was the defensive Rookie of the Year in the NFL. He looks like he may become one of the best pass-rushing ends. Carlton Dabney of Morgan State was hurt in training camp, but he came on to win a starting tackle berth. He was the Falcons' second pick.

BALTIMORE—Not many rookies play for champions, but No. 9 pick Terry Cole contributed heavily as a running back. Ocie Austin, the No. 10 selection, may be Bob Boyd's successor at cornerback. The first choice, Minnesota's John Williams, is being switched from offense to defensive end, where he could challenge one of the aging stars.

BOSTON—Seven draftees, including first pick Dennis Byrd, started at one time or another. Tom Funchess (No. 2) is a regular offensive tackle, Daryl Johnson (No. 8) started at corner and Jim Cheyurski (No. 12) may be Nick Buoniconti's successor at middle linebacker. Flanker Aaron Marsh, halfback R.C. Gamble and safety Art McMahon started at least a few games.

BUFFALO—The Bills' philosophy was "if you're going to lose, lose with youth." A half dozen freshman started. Haven Moses, the flanker selected in the first round, was the best. Split end Richard Trapp, fullback Ben Gregory, halfback Max Anderson, guard Bob Kalsu and quarterback Dan Darragh answered the gong for the opening game, investing most of the offense in rookie hands. Kalsu is in the Armed Forces and Gregory had a serious knee injury, but the others are counted on for heavy duty in '69 and for many years to come.

CHICAGO—Tackle Wayne Mass replaced injured Bob Wetoska on offense a few times and Major Hazelton got some work in the defensive backfield. Other than that there wasn't much rookie help. The experiment with

No. 1 pick Mike Hull at tight end failed, so he'll be a running back again. Quarterback Virgil Carter showed well until he was hurt, but Jack Concannon has the inside track for that job.

CINCINNATI—Paul Brown went with youth in his first year. Halfback Paul Robinson was the season's super rookie. Three-quarters of the line—center Bob Johnson (No. 1 draft), guard Dave Middelendorf and tackle Howard Fest—were frosh. So were flanker Warren McVea, tight end Bob Trumpy, kicker Dale Livingston, fullback Tom Smiley, defensive end Harry Gunner, tackle Bill Staley, outside linebacker Al Beauchamp and safety Jess Phillips. Some of them played only by default.

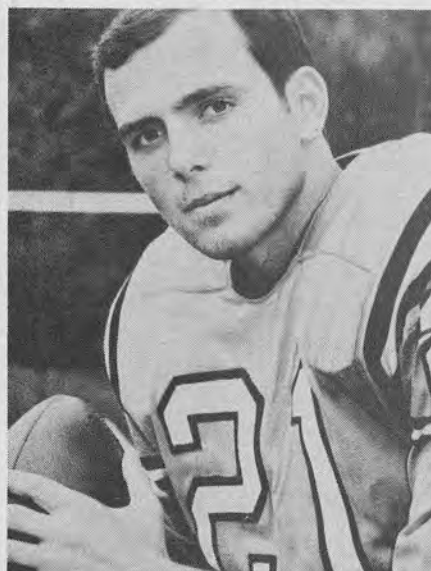
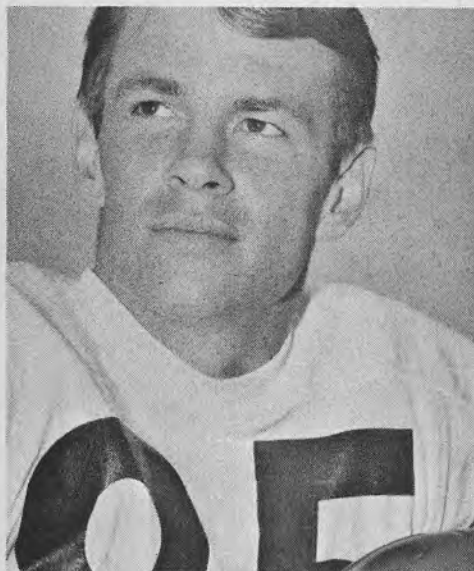
CLEVELAND—Another team tough for rookies to crack. Marvin Upshaw kicked off and played a bit of defensive end for Bill Glass. Now Glass is retired so the 1968 No. 1 pick looms as a starter.

Cincinnati's rookie Paul Robinson was the AFL's leading ground gainer.





Top 1969 draft choices and the teams selecting them include Jerry Levias, Houston wide receiver, top right; Ron Sayers, San Diego running back, near right; Bob Babich, San Diego linebacker, far right; Jim Seymour, Los Angeles pass catcher, below left; and Marty Domres, San Diego quarterback, below center.



DALLAS—The NFL's best sleeper was defensive end Larry Cole, a No. 16 pick from Hawaii. The second selection, end David McDaniels, proved useful in another way. He was part of the package traded to Philadelphia for Mike Ditka. There's a big future for Dennis Homan, the No. 1 pick who played little as a receiver.

DENVER—Everybody got his shot in the secondary, including draftees Drake Garrett, Gus Hollomon and Charlie Greer. Best bet for the future is defensive end Paul Smith, a ninth pick. Top choice Curley Culp, a defensive tackle, disappointed and was claimed by Kansas City. Quarterback

Marlin Briscoe played a lot when Steve Tensi was hurt. Bill Van Heusen punted well and was a backup receiver.

DETROIT—If the Lions' first-round pick, flanker Earl McCullough, hadn't been NFL Rookie of the Year on offense, the No. 3 choice, tight end Charley Sanders might have won it. Jerry DePoyster won the kicking assignment and Greg Landry showed enough as a fill-in quarterback so that a future can be planned for him.

GREEN BAY—The "veterans' only" sign was up. The trial of Fred Carr as a tight end produced nothing, so the first draft choice is back as a linebacker. Another first-round pick, guard Bill

Lueck, and Dick Himes get their shots now that three offensive linemen have retired.

HOUSTON—All three top picks ended up starting. Mac Haik caught eight touchdown passes from his flanker position, Jim Beirne became the regular split end and Elvin Bethea took over at defensive end.

KANSAS CITY—Top pick Mo Moorman was a starting guard. A sleeper, 14th choice Bob Holmes, a fullback from Southern U., was the best frosh. He finished second in AFL ground gaining.

LOS ANGELES—Coach George Allen has a law against playing rookies.



Los Angeles picked Larry Smith, running back, top left; Boston grabbed Ron Sellers, receiver, middle left; Atlanta took George Kunz, tackle, bottom left; Cincinnati selected Greg Cook, quarterback, center top; Houston drafted Ron Pritchard, linebacker, center bottom; Los Angeles took Bob Klein, tight end, above; and Atlanta picked Paul Gipson, running back, below.



MIAMI—Five freshmen were big contributors. Larry Csonka (No. 1) and Jim Kiick were the starting backs on offense; Dick Anderson led the interceptors from safety; Doug Crusan (also No. 1) was the only young offensive lineman (tackle), Randy Edmunds won a starting job at outside linebacker and Manny Fernandez played defensive end.

MINNESOTA—Biggest surprise was that Ron Yary, the USC tackle taken first in the entire draft, couldn't start. Safety Charlie West played a lot and tied a 35-year-old record by returning a punt 98 yards for a touchdown.

NEW ORLEANS—Shh! Don't men-

tion No. 1 pick Kevin Hardy to the Saints. Commissioner Pete Rozelle awarded him to San Francisco as part of the balm for David Parks, who had played out his option in the Bay area and was signed by the Saints. Gene Howard, a seventh round choice, started at cornerback.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Bobby Duhon converted successfully from quarterback at Tulane to a running back with the Giants. Henry Davis, an 11th choice, made a job for himself at middle linebacker.

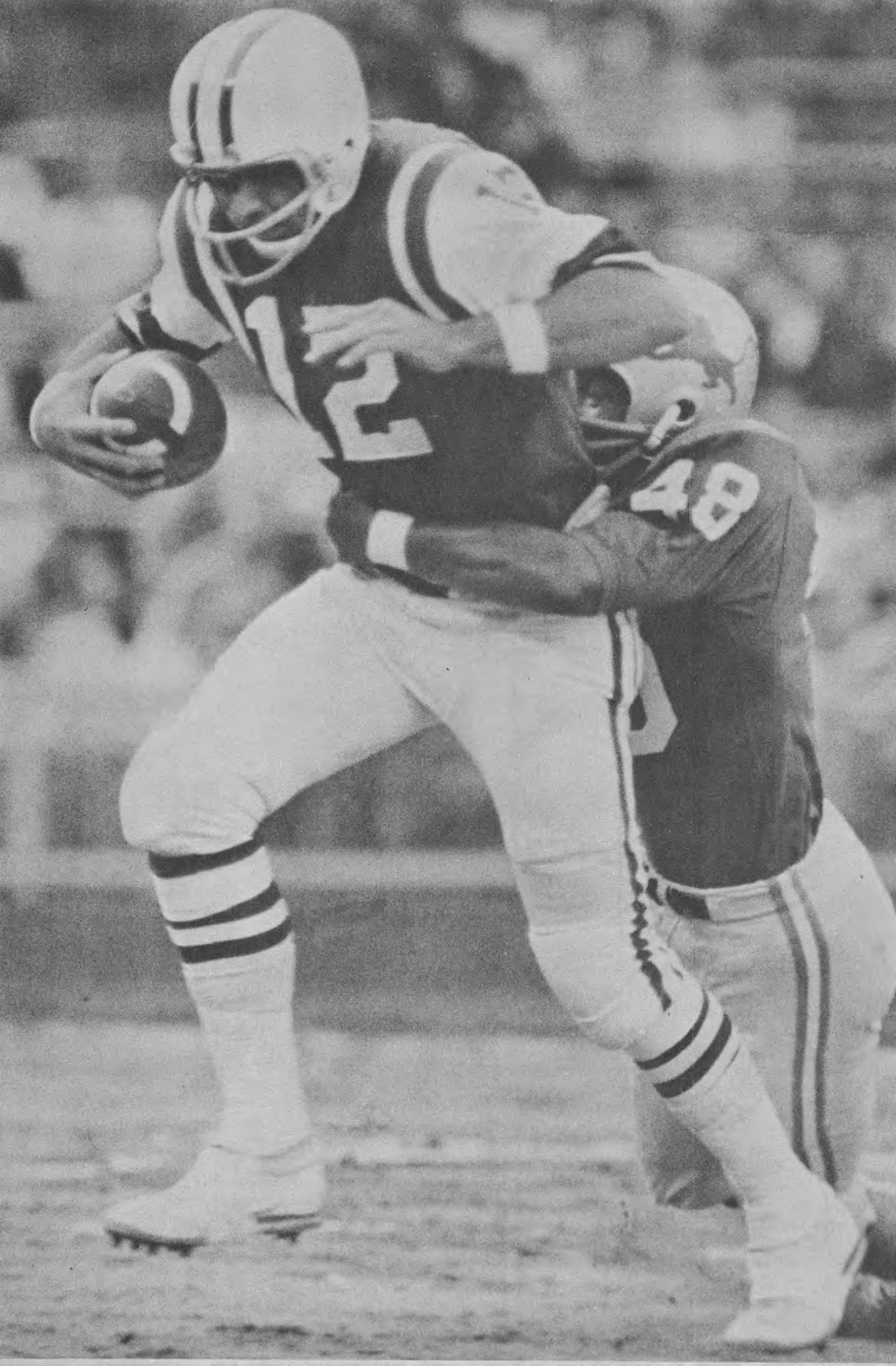
NEW YORK JETS—Three of the first four picks underwent knee surgery. Fullback Lee White (No. 1) played

one game and defensive lineman Steve Thompson played well in the last third of the season. Gary Wagner gets his shot this year as a linebacker. No. 3, Sam Walton, started most games at tackle until the tough defensive ends started wheeling past him.

OAKLAND—Charley Smith, No. 4, gave the Raiders championship impetus from mid-season. First choice Eldridge Dickey played little as a receiver, now gets his opportunity to show if he's a quarterback. George Atkinson was a starting cornerback for most of the season, and Ralph Oliver contributed at linebacker.

PHILADELPHIA—Five rookies

continued on page 100



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Top right on the opposite page is author Parilli, backup quarterback on the Jets. All the other photos are of Namath himself in action.



BY BABE PARILLI

Quarterback

New York Jets



Super Joe's backup
writes of Namath's
dedication to the
game, his assets as
well as his flaws

JOE NAMATH

What makes Joe Namath tick? People seem to think he doesn't care much for football, that he likes to run around and lacks dedication.

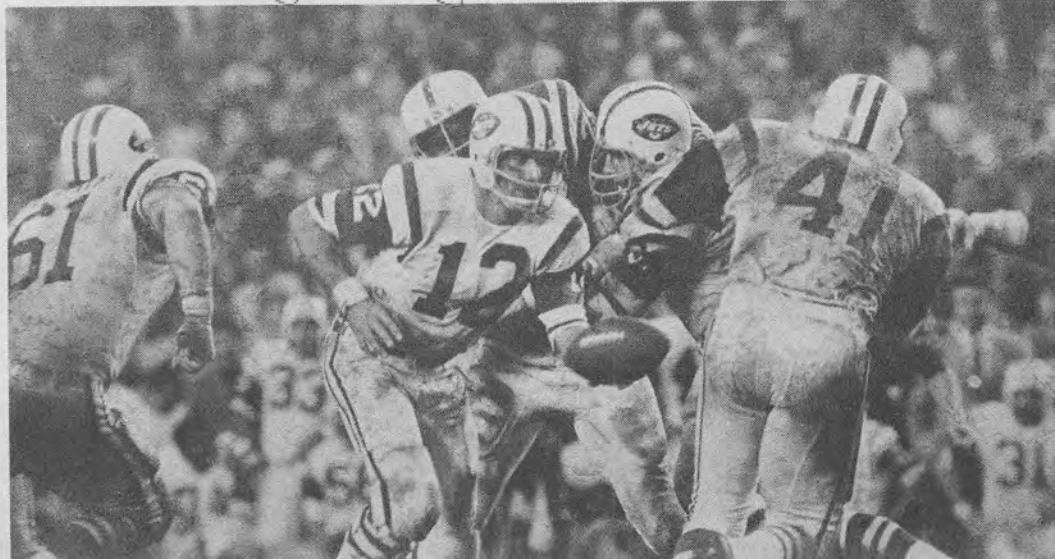
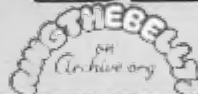
There just isn't a bigger fallacy.

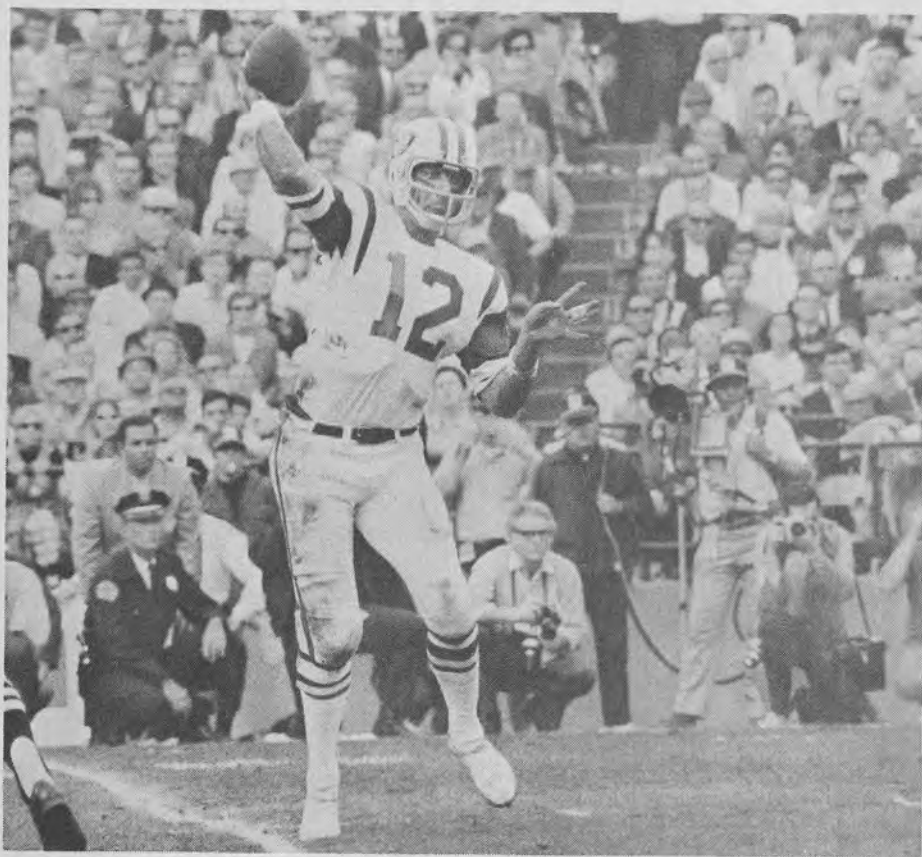
I came to the New York Jets last year after several years with the Boston Patriots. After watching Namath as an opposing quarterback, I got the chance to watch him as a fellow quarterback. Even I was surprised at how much dedication he has to football.

No one on this team, the World Champions, is more involved in football than Joe. He's cool and detached in his private life, so people think this is the way he is in football. Believe me, it just isn't so. Joe takes home reels of film each night, just as I do. We sit down with the coaches and discuss them the next morning. He knows exactly what's going on.

The Super Bowl game with Baltimore was an example.

I've been asked whether he was as





confident inwardly as he was outwardly. He was even more confident inwardly after he saw the films. Not that he discovered any flaws in the Colts. We just found that we might have put them up a little too high in our estimation without really studying them.

When a team wins as much and as impressively as the Colts did in the National League, a quarterback wants to see what they are doing differently. The films showed us that they had great personnel, but that the way they did things was not that much different from anyone else.

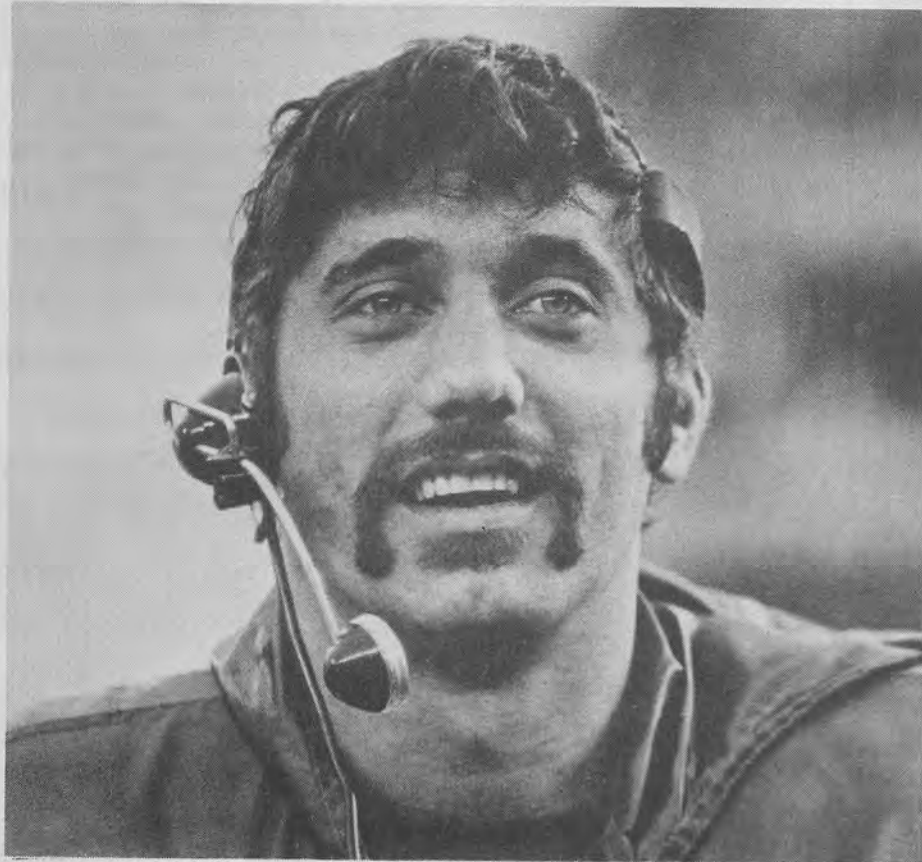
What gave us great confidence was that Joe was able to read the Baltimore defenses from the films. He has that ability to recognize a defense before the ball is snapped.

Once we got into the game, Joe experimented a bit. Winston Hill, our left tackle, was blocking very well. So our slant off tackle was working. We didn't plan to go at the right side of the Baltimore defense as much as we did, but Joe found that it was successful. Like all good quarterbacks, when Joe finds something that's working, he sticks with it.

I've tried to think of Joe's greatest asset. Everyone knows he has that great quick release of the ball. He has the ability to pick out his secondary receiver if his primary man is covered, then turn and let loose with a completion. In the AFL championship game against Oakland he threw a touchdown pass to a guy who was at least the third receiver on the play. But I think the most impressive thing is the way he reacts to pressure. When time is running out, with two, three minutes to play and you have to win, that's what counts. He has it then. He's at his best.

I saw him take us the length of the field twice last year when we were in big trouble. He controlled the ball for more than five minutes against Kansas City to conserve a tough, one-point victory.

His flaws? His flaws are his knees. The question is whether they'll hold up. He'll keep being great if he keeps working. But to keep working, to keep his timing, he has to practice. If his knees are hurt, if he can't practice, that's what would hold him back.



At top is Joe as he is about to release the ball. Above, he's wearing earphones and the Fu Manchu mustache he sported in '68.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Turn the page and begin—the best team-by-team coverage of the NFL you'll read this season! Before you start, keep the following in mind: Data on each team appear in the order in which we predict the teams will finish in their respective divisions. After the regular season, for the title games, CORD SPORTFACTS predicts the following: Cleveland will lose to Dallas in the Eastern playoff; Baltimore will defeat Green Bay for the Western title. Then, in the NFL Championship game, Baltimore will beat Dallas. Next comes the Super Bowl, and this time around the NFL representative should win it. All right, now what else should you know before you begin the detailed coverage that covers the next 32 pages? With each team we have a personnel depth chart. In addition to the players, we rate each position with CORD SPORTFACTS Performance Quotient. The system is based on a 1 through 5 rating, with 1 being the best—for a unit that is tops or tied for the top in its division. 2 stands for excellent, 3 equals good, 4 is fair and 5 is poor. The team with the lowest aggregate total figures to be the best in its division, but then you have to consider a club's intangibles, too. Turn the page now, and start studying the most fact-filled NFL coverage you'll see this year!

NFL EAST/CENTURY DIVISION

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Prediction: First

The Browns swagger, and rightfully so. They are the not very humble kings of the East, the team the NFL yearned to keep and the team the AFL insisted upon having.

"We are not going to emasculate the entire NFL," said their owner, Art Modell, before changing his mind and volunteering his team into the AFL for the everlasting good of pro football.

This is one of the NFL's prize franchises, a club that has a chance to win a championship this last year of the status quo. It is an able team with a truly great runner in Leroy Kelly. It has a fine young quarterback, Bill Nelsen, who jelled the club with his aggressive leadership. It has a new defense, one that operates on teamwork without a name star. Yes, a defense that well could have wrecked its 1969 chances by its over-ebullient actions one day last December.

"We stood right there and laughed at them across the line...they couldn't do anything against us...they were confused, flustered...we laughed at them, right in their faces..."

The Browns laughed openly—and joked about it afterward—while the Cowboys listened to the taunts through their sobs in that Eastern playoff. Now it is another year and there is a rematch Nov. 2 and probably another in another Eastern title game next December. There are memories in Dallas—and extra motivation throughout the NFL to have at the Browns and keep them from escaping to the AFL with the NFL championship.

All this, naturally, is one of pro football's many intangibles. It is counteracted by the Browns' prominent tangibles—Kelly, Nelsen, Paul Warfield, Gene Hickerson and that remodeled intercepting pass defense.

Few quarterbacks can rally a team as well as Nelsen. Until Joe Namath in the Super Bowl, Nelsen was the only quarterback who managed to defeat Baltimore last year. He was unable to

do it twice and had to be relieved in the NFL championship game. But very suddenly the Browns have a quarterback capable of inspiring them.

Now Nelsen is entrenched as No. 1, backed by Jerry Rhyme, acquired from Dallas, with old QB Frank Ryan up for the offing. Nelsen is not a great passer. But he throws quickly and demands everything from his offense and he wins—most of the time.

With Nelsen, Coach Blanton Collier's Browns have an ideally balanced offense. The mainspring of that offense is Kelly, the NFL rushing champion the last two autumns with totals far above 1,000 yards. Kelly has the change of pace, the speed, the ability inside and out, the talent to catch passes and score with them.

The offense will be even better if the Browns develop a second runner to work with Kelly. Ron Johnson, the touchdown scoring first draft choice from Michigan, should be Kelly's mate eventually, or immediately. Or Charley Harraway, who ran with Kelly most of last year, could be the man again. The Browns do have depth at the position.

Cleveland also is well equipped with starting receivers, although there is a depth shortage. Warfield scored 12 touchdowns on passes and is always a deep threat. Gary Collins, the flanker, returns from a season of injury, still a receiver who can maneuver himself open. Tight end Milt Morin is ready for stardom if he recovers satisfactorily from pre-season back surgery; he's a receiver who can transform short passes into sizable gains. But the only extra receiver of note is Eppie Barney, an outside man, and certainly a back-up for Morin must be found for the early games and in case he is less than 100 percent when he returns.

Hickerson leads a line that permits Kelly to go places and protects Nelsen's fragile knees. The right guard, Hickerson is All-Pro, rated the NFL's top blocker, Fred Hoaglin is one of the

many talented and unknown centers in the sport. Dick Schafrath and Monte Clark are the tackles. John Demarie is the youngest lineman, the left guard, in this cohesive unit.

The mocking defense thrives basically because of its pass coverage. The Browns intercepted a league leading 32 passes last year—plus four more that day against Dallas. The defensive backfield is set with Ben Davis and Erich Barnes at the corners and Ernie Kellerman and Mike Howell at the safeties. It was rebuilt last year. Davis, small but fast, was a new man and the big difference.

The line, too, goes into only its second season together. The ends still are relatively new—with ex-Redskin Ron Snidow on the left and third year man Jack Gregory on the right. Gregory played the key games last year, now has the job full-time with Bill Glass retired. Tackles Jim Kanicki and Walt Johnson play the run well.

The linebacking also is recently remodeled. Jim Houston is the veteran and defense leader on the left side, Bob Matheson shows to great advantage in the middle with Dale Lindsey, a fine pass coverer, on the right.

There is substantial defensive depth in all areas—Gene Upshaw for the line, John Garlington and Wayne Meylan for the linebackers, and Carl Ward and Alvin Mitchell for the defensive backs.

Also just entering the second year is the new kicking game. Don Cockroft is the successor to Lou Groza, who came with the franchise back in 1946. Cockroft does not have the old Groza's distance, but he is sharply accurate. He also handled the punts last year when Collins was injured.

Whether the Browns will be able to swagger into the AFL is problematical. Their division, the Century, happens to be the easiest to win...but there are clubs elsewhere around the NFL which could keep the Browns from laughing too much.

1968 RECORD (11-5)			SYMBOLS		RECEIVING						INTERCEPTIONS						
24	New Orleans	10	†—League leader			Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg			Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
7	Dallas	28	*—Retired		Warfield	50	1067	12†	65	21.3	Davis	8	162	0	44	20.3	
6	Los Angeles	24			Morin	43	792	5	87	18.4	Howell	6	55	0	24	9.2	
31	Pittsburgh	24			Kelly	22	297	4	68	13.5	Kellerman	6	29	0	12	4.8	
21	St. Louis	27			Barney	18	189	1	18	10.5	Barnes	3	64	1	40	21.3	
30	Baltimore	20									Houston	3	11	0	7	3.7	
30	Atlanta	7															
33	San Francisco	21	Kelly	20†	0	0	120†										
35	New Orleans	17	Cockroft	0	46	18	100										
45	Pittsburgh	24	Warfield	12	0	0	72										
47	Philadelphia	13	Morin	5	0	0	30										
45	New York	10															
24	Washington	21			Kelly	248†	1239†	16†	65	5.0							
16	St. Louis	27			Harraway	91	334	0	23	3.7							
31	Dallas	20			*Green	41	152	0	14	3.7							
	(Eastern Title)				Leigh	23	144	1	20	6.3	Leigh	14	76	0	29	5.4	
0	Baltimore	34									Davis	9	11	0	9	1.2	
	(NFL Title)																

OFFENSE						Performance Quotients
QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College	
Nelsen, Bill	6-0	195	28	7	Southern California	Nelsen provided leadership and harmonizing influence that led Browns to Eastern title. Browns No. 1 in team passing. Nelsen quick, resourceful passer. Ryan's status in doubt. Rhome added as backup. PERF. QT.: 3.
Ryan, Frank	6-3	207	33	12	Rice	
Rhome, Jerry	6-0	185	27	5	Tulsa	
RUNNING BACKS						
Kelly, Leroy	6-0	200	27	6	Morgan State	Kelly, fast, elusive, strong, durable, has been the NFL's rushing champ the last two years, over 1,000 yards each time. Browns seek a mate with Ernie Green's retirement; when he was hurt last year, Harraway filled in effectively. Rookie Johnson might start. Leigh promising, Morrison needs seasoning. PERF. QT.: 1.
Harraway, Charley	6-2	215	25	4	San Jose State	
Johnson, Ron	6-2	205	21	1	Michigan	
Morrison, Reece	6-0	205	23	2	Southwest Texas State	
Leigh, Charlie	5-11	205	23	2	None	
RECEIVERS						
Warfield, Paul (W)	6-0	188	26	6	Ohio State	A good unit, but deficient in depth. Warfield, with great speed, led NFL in TD catches. He gets open and can go deep and score from anywhere. Collins, slower and the size of many tight ends, uses moves as his basic weapon. He, too, has knack of getting open. Hulking Morin will be missed severely until return from hospital list. Glass might start season at TE. Barney good reserve. Hooker on trial. PERF. QT.: 3.
Collins, Gary (W)	6-4	220	29	8	Maryland	
Morin, Milt (T)	6-4	250	26	4	Massachusetts	
Barney, Eppie (W)	6-0	204	25	3	Iowa State	
Glass, Charlie (T)	6-3	218	22	1	Florida State	
Hooker, Fair (W)	6-0	195	22	1	Arizona State	
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End						
INTERIOR LINEMEN						
Schaftrath, Dick (T)	6-3	248	32	11	Ohio State	Probably best from tackle to tackle in NFL. Plays in front of best-protected quarterback in league. Opens holes well for Kelly, provides smooth escort on sweeps. Hickerson regarded as best blocking guard in league, solid All-Pro performer. Adept on both run and pass blocking. Hoaglin All-Pro material at center. Demarie is young, but fits in well. Schaftrath is an excellent pass blocker, another wise old athlete. Clark is the same at the other tackle—reliable. Taffoni, Copeland experienced, Jenkins a hope. PERF. QT. 1.
Demarie, John (G)	6-3	255	24	3	Louisiana State	
Hoaglin, Fred (C)	6-4	250	25	4	Pittsburgh	
Hickerson, Gene (G)	6-3	260	33	12	Mississippi	
Clark, Monte (T)	6-6	250	32	11	Southern California	
Taffoni, Joe (T)	6-3	250	24	3	Tennessee-Martin	
Copeland, Jim (G)	6-2	245	24	3	Virginia	
Jenkins, Al (G)	6-2	260	22	1	Tulsa	
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center						
KICKER						
Cockroft, Don	6-1	185	24	2	Adams State	Cockroft is reliable, but team's punting is weak. PERF. QT.: 3.
DEFENSE						
FRONT LINEMEN						
Snidow, Ron (E)	6-3	250	27	7	Oregon	Generally improved with confidence and experience now, provides a good pass rush and decent stoppage of running. Promising Gregory has won RE job with Bill Glass retiring. Snidow helped the rush when he joined club in '68 trade, fitting in well with confident mood. Johnson is sturdy on the run and has become a stronger rush man. Kanicki is reliable, strong anti-running Upshaw a promising reserve, almost ready. Sabatino extra man, Adams likely to be taxed. PERF. QT.: 2.
Johnson, Walt (T)	6-4	275	26	5	Cal. State-LA	
Kanicki, Jim (T)	6-4	270	26	7	Michigan State	
Gregory, Jack (E)	6-5	250	24	3	Delta State	
Upshaw, Marvin (T-E)	6-3	245	22	2	Trinity (Texas)	
Sabatino, Bill (T)	6-3	245	24	2	Colorado	
Adams, Larry (E-T)	6-3	245	22	1	Texas Christian	
(E)—End (T)—Tackle						
LINEBACKERS						
Houston, Jim (O)	6-3	240	31	10	Ohio State	They function well with rebuilt line. Not a flashy group, but steady. Matheson underrated in middle because of relative inexperience. Took job over and handled it. Houston is unflashy operative on outside, good against run. Lindsay normally on weakside, adept at picking up backs who come out on pass routes. A husky group. Andrews, Meylan, Garlington all reliable reserves. PERF. QT.: 3.
Matheson, Bob (M)	6-4	240	24	3	Duke	
Lindsay, Dale (O)	6-3	230	26	5	Western Kentucky	
Andrews, Bill (O)	6-0	225	24	3	Southeast Louisiana	
Meylan, Wayne (M)	6-1	235	23	2	Nebraska	
Garlington, John (O)	6-1	225	23	2	Louisiana State	
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker						
CORNERBACKS						
Barnes, Erich	6-3	212	34	12	Purdue	Highly improved last year, especially in pass coverage. Browns led in interceptions and Davis, a new starter, was a large reason. He's fast and careful. Barnes is more of a gambler and can be beaten at times. Mitchell fine backup, Summers a possibility. PERF. QT.: 3.
Davis, Ben	5-11	185	23	3	Defiance	
Mitchell, Alvin	6-3	195	25	2	Morgan State	
Summers, Fred	6-1	197	22	1	Wake Forest	
SAFETIES						
Kellerman, Ernie (S)	6-0	185	25	4	Miami (Ohio)	Kellerman and Howell are two more reasons for outstandingly improved pass defense, both becoming better players last year. Whole defensive backfield meshes well. Kellerman also strong against runs. Ward will stick as kick return man, James is a spare. PERF. QT.: 2.
Howell, Mike (W)	6-1	190	26	5	Grambling	
Ward, Carl (S-W)	5-9	180	25	3	Michigan	
James, Nate (W-S)	6-1	195	25	2	Florida A&M	
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety						

NFL EAST/CENTURY DIVISION

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Prediction: Second

Back on the day the great NFL-AFL realignment stalemate was broken, the Cardinals were prepared to announce in St. Louis that they would be joining the AFL in 1970. Suddenly the press conference had to be cancelled. The AFL said, "We don't want St. Louis."

This could have been a mistake. The Cardinals, though lacking a lustrous name player, are a very, very substantial football team. They have plenty of running and receiving and blocking—which are ingredients not all teams possess.

The Cardinals, it seems, have finally licked the habit that destroyed them for so many years. They tended to start quickly, become a contender and then fold in the second half of the season, a bitter disappointment. Last year the Cardinals operated in reverse.

"We finished the 1968 season with eight victories and a tie in our last 10 games," reminds the perfectly named coach, Charley Winner. The Cardinals missed taking the Century title by a half game from Cleveland, a team they conquered both times they met. Indeed, the Cardinals were unbeaten in their own division—with five victories and a tie—and they base their title predictions for 1969 on this fact.

While so fortunate in so many offensive categories, the Cardinals still are in need of dependable quarterbacking. Their pass completion average, 43.9 percent, was the poorest in the league last year.

Charley Johnson, the regular for five years before he was beckoned by Uncle Sam's Army, should reclaim his No. 1 quarterback job. Young Jim Hart, never tested in the pros, had to play for two years with Johnson flying in for Sundays. It was an unsatisfactory operation and frequently the offense suffered. Hart has started to develop and will be a very capable backup for Johnson, should Johnson win the quarterback duel at camp.

Johnson is steadier, more accurate

with his passes and less interception prone. His advantage is experience.

If the pass average increases to the norm of 50 percent or better, the Cardinals will be able to exploit their other offensive strengths.

The receiving has speed, the running is fast enough and has power. As a unit, Dave Williams, Jackie Smith and John Gilliam match any team, except Dallas, in receiving speed. Williams, probably the best young receiver in the league, gets open and and beats experienced cornerbacks with exceptional catches. Smith is the second best among the tight ends, a man who can go deep and run. Gilliam is to be the new flanker, replacing traded veteran Bobby Joe Conrad. Gilliam came from the New Orleans Saints and is the fastest receiver on the roster. There is receiving depth, too, with Freddie Hyatt and Jerry Daanen exceptional prospects.

The running is five deep, an asset lacking on most clubs. Willis Crenshaw, a power runner who has suddenly become one of the top 10 rushers, and Johnny Roland will start. Roland should have a good year again now that his knee has proven sound. Roy Shivers, Cid Edwards and MacArthur Lane can keep the starters fresh with spot appearances.

All five of the offensive line starters have been in the Pro Bowl in the last two years. The standouts are Ernie McMillan, a fine pass blocking tackle, Ken Gray, a mobile guard, and Bob DeMarco, an excellent center. Irv Goode plays the other guard and Bob Reynolds the other tackle. There is depth on the line, too, with Rick Sortun, Clyde Williams and Ted Wheeler.

There had been considerable unrest and instability on defense. But those problems appear settled now. Last year Larry Wilson, the safety blitz man at free safety, was the only defender in the same position he had been the year before.

Now the defensive line returns intact after a complete remodeling. To get a better pass rush, Winner had changed Don Brumm from right to left end and moved Chuck Walker from a tackle to right end. Bob Rowe and Fred Heron became the new tackles. This group has now had a year of togetherness.

The linebacking also has developed some cohesion after last year. Jamie Rivers did a standout job as a rookie middle linebacker until injured. He's fit again and has fine mobility. Dave Meggyesy has developed into a reliable right linebacker. Larry Stallings, restricted to part-time play for two years by Army duties, is a civilian again. He's regained his left linebacker spot, toughening the defense.

Rolf Krueger, No. 2 draft, is a reserve lineman; Mike Strofolino, Rocky Rosema and Joe Schmeising are backup linebackers. This is a young, hard-hitting group with potential and a bright football future ahead of it.

Jerry Stovall returns after a year of injury as the strong safety to team with Wilson. Both cornerbacks, new last year, are back, too—second year man Bob Atkins and vet Lonnie Sanders. Mike Barnes and Chuck Latourette are depth in the secondary. Latourette is a tough young man who might deserve regular work. He is one of the best punt return men in the league. Another possibility in the secondary is Roger Wehrli, the first draft choice.

The Cardinals' defense, generally, is not as tricky and effective as it used to be. This is the flaw that could damage them.

Both their placekicking and punting are exceptional. Jim Bakken is very reliable at all ranges on field goals. Latourette, who does a lot of everything, is an outstanding punter.

The Cardinals can challenge in the Century—but historically something befalls them during the season which keeps them from a title.

1968 RECORD (9-4-1)

SYMBOLS

**—Traded
 †—League leader
 ††—Tied for league lead

13	Los Angeles	24
17	San Francisco	35
21	New Orleans	20
10	Dallas	27
27	Cleveland	21
41	Washington	14
31	New Orleans	17
45	Philadelphia	17
28	Pittsburgh	28
0	Baltimore	27
17	Atlanta	12
20	Pittsburgh	10
28	New York	21
27	Cleveland	16

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Bakken	0	40	15	85
Crenshaw	7	0	0	42
Shivers	7	0	0	42
Hart	6	0	0	36
D. Williams	6	0	0	36

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Smith	49	789	2	65	16.1
D. Williams	43	682	6	71	15.9
**Conrad	32	449	4	80	14.0
Crenshaw	23	232	1	42	10.1
Crenshaw	203	813	6	66	4.0
Roland	121	455	2	45	3.8
Edwards	31	214	1	42	6.9
Shivers	44	184	4	42	4.2

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Wilson	4	14	0	8	3.5
Sanders	3	6	0	6	2.0
Rivers	2	22	0	14	11.0
Atkins	2	0	0	0	0.0

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Latourette	65	2700	55	41.6

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Latourette	28††	345†	1	86	12.3
Roland	3	11	0	8	3.7

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Hart	316	140	2059	80	15	18	44.3
Johnson	67	29	330	30	1	1	43.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Latourette	46†	1237†	0	75	26.9
Crenshaw	6	104	0	25	17.3

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Johnson, Charlie	6-0	190	30	9	New Mexico State
Hart, Jim	6-2	205	25	4	Southern Illinois
RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Roland, Johnny	6-2	215	26	4	Missouri
Crenshaw, Willis	6-1	230	28	6	Kansas State
Shivers, Roy	5-11	200	27	4	Utah State
Edwards, Cid	6-2	230	26	2	Tennessee State
Lane, MacArthur	6-0	220	27	2	Utah State
RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Williams, Dave (W)	6-2	205	24	3	Washington
Gilliam, John (W)	6-1	190	24	3	South Carolina State
Smith, Jackie (T)	6-4	230	29	7	Northwest Louisiana
Daanen, Jerry (W)	6-0	190	24	2	Miami
Hyatt, Fred (W)	6-3	212	23	2	Auburn
Logan, Chuck (T)	6-4	230	26	5	Northwestern
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Reynolds, Bob (T)	6-5	265	30	7	Bowling Green
Goode, Irv (G)	6-5	250	28	8	Kentucky
DeMarco, Bob (C)	6-2	245	31	9	Dayton
Gray, Ken (G)	6-2	250	33	12	Howard Payne
McMillan, Ernie (T)	6-6	260	31	9	Illinois
Sortun, Rick (G)	6-2	240	26	6	Washington
Williams, Clyde (T-G)	6-2	250	29	3	Southern
Wheeler, Ted (G)	6-3	245	24	3	West Texas State
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKER	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Bakken, Jim	6-0	200	28	8	Wisconsin

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Brumm, Don (E)	6-3	245	27	7	Purdue
Heron, Fred (T)	6-4	255	24	4	San Jose State
Rowe, Bob (T)	6-4	255	24	3	Western Michigan
Walker, Chuck (E)	6-3	250	28	6	Duke
Johnson, Walter (E)	6-5	240	25	2	Tuskegee
Krueger, Rolf (E-T)	6-4	245	22	1	Texas A&M
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Stallings, Larry (O)	6-2	230	27	7	Georgia Tech
Rivers, Jamie (M)	6-2	235	23	2	Bowling Green
Meggyesy, Dave (O)	6-1	230	27	7	Syracuse
Strofolino, Mike (M)	6-2	230	25	5	Villanova
Rosema, Rocky (O)	6-2	230	23	2	Michigan
Schmiesing, Joe (O)	6-4	245	24	2	New Mexico State
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Atkins, Bob	6-3	212	23	2	Grambling
Sanders, Lonnie	6-3	205	27	7	Michigan State
Wehrli, Roger	6-1	185	21	1	Missouri
Shockley, Walt	5-11	195	22	1	San Jose State
SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Stovall, Jerry (S)	6-2	195	28	7	Louisiana State
Wilson, Larry (W)	6-0	190	31	10	Utah
Latourette, Chuck (W-S)	6-0	190	24	3	Rice
Barnes, Mike (S)	6-3	205	24	3	Arlington
Sauls, Mac (W)	6-0	185	24	2	Southwest Texas State
Brown, Terry (S)	6-1	205	21	1	Oklahoma State
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

Johnson, back from Army, likely to take over offense again. Good leader. Hart promising, but was interception-plagued. PERF. QT.: 4.

There is fine depth here; backs can be rotated without impairing efficiency. Roland is top man, a fast, dodging runner with some power. Crenshaw has become one of top power runners in NFL. Edwards, with tremendous size, should excel. Lane and Shivers have fine speed. Running gives fine balance to receiving. PERF. QT.: 2.

A fine talented unit that blends with the running game. Williams is acrobatic, perhaps the best young outside receiver in NFL. Can stop and go, or go deep. Smith close to All-Pro at TE, fine size to outfight defenders and then run with ball. Successor to Bobby Joe Conrad at flank likely will be Gilliam, though Daanen has fine assets. Hyatt good back up, Logan adequate tight end spare. PERF. QT.: 2.

Protects well and opens holes. Unit has been together for years. McMillan, Gray and DeMarco all are stars. McMillan is one of the top pass blocking tackles. Gray's specialty is runs, DeMarco controls the line from center. He is another of the All-Pro quality centers who is undersung. Goode's extra size for a guard helps in pass protection. Reynolds has been a longtime stickout at the left tackle. Sortun is capable enough to be playing regularly with some clubs. Williams and Wheeler have experience as reserves. PERF. QT.: 2.

Few place kickers better. Chuck Latourette punts well. PERF. QT.: 2.

Pass rush lacks its old flair, needs accompaniment of blitzing linebackers to be effective. This unit is better against running. Brumm is the leader, a fair rusher. Heron is adequate; young Rowe could improve with experience. Walker rushes well enough. Just ordinary height for defensive linemen impairs the rush somewhat. Johnson is inexperienced backup. Rookie Krueger has high potential. PERF. QT.: 4.

Cards don't blitz as wildly as they used to; they're more straightforward now. Rivers, despite inexperience, proved to be a fine middle man and should get even better. Stallings is back after being part-time in Army and will strengthen the left. Meggyesy steadies the right. Strofolino provides extra depth in the middle. Rosema a fine youngster, scrambles with Schmiesing for opening. PERF. QT.: 3.

Weak here. Atkins was vulnerable as a rookie, but because of his playing time, he has more experience than routine second-year defender. Sanders has savvy. Top rookie Wehrli could break in now. Shockley will have trouble sticking. PERF. QT.: 4.

Wilson still employs safety blitz with great impact. He fakes it a lot, too, to befuddle QBs, but he has slacked off as interceptor. Stovall is reliable on runs. Latourette, a fine kick return man, good punter, could break in somewhere as regular. Barnes has shown some promise. Sauls is inexperienced and Brown might be a year away. A good trouble free unit. PERF. QT.: 2.

NFL EAST/CENTURY DIVISION

NEW YORK GIANTS

Prediction: Third

Probably Norm Van Brocklin stated it most accurately and eloquently years ago when he was still coaching in Minnesota: "He wins some games he shouldn't win and loses some games he should win."

The subject of Van Brocklin's discourse was Francis Tarkenton, the original ad lib quarterback, the man who can drive defenses and his own offensive line dippy on the same play.

There is a tendency in New York to immortalize quarterbacks, and Fran Tarkenton has qualified for the glamor treatment in two years with the Giants. But the facts remain—the Giants have had two 7-7 seasons since Tarkenton appeared among them and the club has not had a winning record since 1963.

Another breakeven year is in the offing for the Giants with some victories they shouldn't get and some losses they shouldn't suffer.

There are plenty of deficiencies, and the Giants, a prestigious pioneer in this sport of pro football, are now only No. 2 in their own city. They lack the glamor of the newer and world champion Jets of the AFL. Still, pro football is one of the best shows off Broadway and the Giants pack in 63,000 every Sunday. Only the 63,000 have become restless and the Goodbye Allie serenades to Coach Allie Sherman are louder and more frequent. The defense has holes, the offense lacks speed.

The Giants seem to keep digging themselves in deeper. Their concept for acquiring the needed fresh personnel is to trade for it by giving up valued draft choices. This system has seldom been effective anywhere. Tarkenton cost a bundle of choices, including two firsts, when he came over from Minnesota. Able to draft additional good young people, the Vikings suddenly emerged as division winners.

Now the Giants have done it again. Their pass rush was their weakest area. So they went out and got Clark Miller, over 30, to improve it. The price was a high draft choice. There was a shortage

of receiving depth. The Giants went out and traded for Pete Gent, who lacks speed but can function both wide and tight. The price was another draft choice. Still more draft choices—two this time—went to Atlanta for Ralph Heck, veteran linebacker, and Joe Szczecko, reserve defensive tackle. And yet another went to Los Angeles for running back Henry Dyer.

"This is a relatively young team," says Sherman, "but it is reaching the point in experience and savvy where it should start to establish itself."

The Giants can erupt or they can be dormant. Tarkenton flits around and suddenly sees Homer Jones downfield, also on no particular course. He throws and it is a touchdown. Next time Tarkenton throws more quickly and Jones drops the ball. Next time Tarkenton flits again and the defensive linemen chase and finally pressure him. Suddenly the ball is in the hands of guard Pete Case, who is trying to chug ahead.

It can be fun and it makes for Sundays when Tarkenton beats Dallas and other Sundays when Atlanta beats him. Like last year, the Giants started with four victories and finished with four losses and everything totaled 7-7.

Jones with his speed and size leads the receiver group. Homer has been All-Pro—but then, the agencies that pick these teams are located in old New York. Joe Morrison, the old handyman, is overworked at flanker. The acquisition of Gent, a reliable receiver who'll fit in well with the New York atmosphere, could help. Morrison can be spelled. Aaron Thomas is the tight end, somewhat light, but with running ability. Joe Koontz, Butch Wilson and converted safety Freeman White are receiving depth.

The running is sluggish. Tucker Frederickson's knee operations have robbed him of what was tremendous ability. He blocks well. Ernie Koy is much the same type. Bobby Duhon, a fine second year man, gives the backfield a little speed and probably will

start from the beginning. Randy Minnien is strictly a stopgap runner and Ronnie Blye has the best speed, but has plenty to learn. Allen Jacobs is another candidate, but his job is in jeopardy with the arrival of Dyer. Certainly, the Giants lack the real good runner an offense must have.

Sherman has great praise for the offensive line—Case, Steve Wright, Willie Young, Greg Larson and Charlie Harper. Old Darrell Dess is around to give this group some help when it tires from blocking and then reblocking while Tarkenton decides his next direction. The line should not trouble the Giants this fall.

But the front four and overall defense likely will.

"The line may be the key to our entire season," says Sherman. "We had the worst pass rush in the league last year and we must improve it to be in contention."

Miller, moved to left end after serving on the right side in San Francisco, will help. He breaks through often. But the defensive lineman the Giants are banking on most is Fred Dryer. The Giants had a first draft choice this year for a change and wisely used it to select Dryer. He's the right end, even without the experience. Bob Lurtsema and Sam Silas are the returning tackles. Jim Katcavage now is relegated to reserve work at end.

The linebacking is extremely young. Ken Avery is the dean of the unit and he is in only his third season and still is not mistake-proof. Henry Davis became the middle linebacker as a rookie and should do better in his second year. Tommy Crutcher, ex-Green Bay benchwarmer, is also starting his second year as a regular. His potential is there.

The defensive backfield, overburdened because of what didn't happen up front, is a steady unit. It was tightened by Bruce Maher, who had a fine year at strong safety after his acquisition from Detroit. Maher plays

Cont. on Page 101

1968 RECORD (7-7)			SYMBOLS		RECEIVING						INTERCEPTIONS								
34	Pittsburgh	20	†—League leader			Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg		Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg			
34	Philadelphia	25	††—Tied for league lead		Jones	45	1057	7	84	23.5†	Williams	10†	103	0	24	10.3			
48	Washington	21			Morrison	37	425	6	68	11.5	Lockhart	8	130	2††	72	16.3			
38	New Orleans	21			Duhon	37	373	1	51	10.1	Eaton	4	20	0	16	5.0			
12	Atlanta	24	SCORING																
10	San Francisco	26	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total					PUNTING								
13	Washington	10	Gogolak	0	36	14	78				Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg					
0	Baltimore	26	Jones	7	0	0	42	RUSHING			Koy	44	1649	65	37.5				
27	Dallas	21	Morrison	6	0	0	36	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg	PUNT RETURNS						
7	Philadelphia	6	Duhon	4	0	0	24	Frederickson	142	486	1	19	3.4	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg	
21	Los Angeles	24	Koy	4	0	0	24	Koy	89	394	3	26	4.4	Lockhart	13	69	0	28	5.3
10	Cleveland	45	Thomas	4	0	0	24	Duhon	101	362	3	13	4.4	Duhon	7	32	0	12	4.6
21	St. Louis	28						Tarkenton	57	301	3	22	5.3						
10	Dallas	28	PASSING								KICKOFF RETURNS								
			Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct		Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg				
			Tarkenton	337	182	2555	84	21	12	54.0	Blye	35	734	0	66	21.0			
			Wood	24	9	123	43	0	5	37.5	Duhon	13	214	0	30	16.5			

		OFFENSE				
QUARTERBACKS		Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Tarkenton, Fran		6-0	190	29	9	Georgia
Lane, Gary		6-1	215	26	4	Missouri
Wood, Gary		5-11	188	27	6	Cornell
RUNNING BACKS						
Duhon, Bobby		6-0	190	23	2	Tulane
Koy, Ernie		6-3	230	27	5	Texas
Frederickson, Tucker		6-2	220	26	4	Auburn
Minniear, Randy		6-1	210	25	3	Purdue
Blye, Ron		5-11	185	25	2	Notre Dame
Jacobs, Allen		6-0	215	28	4	Utah
Dyer, Henry		6-1	230	24	3	Grambling
RECEIVERS						
Jones, Homer (W)		6-2	215	28	6	Texas Southern
Morrison, Joe (W)		6-1	212	32	11	Cincinnati
Thomas, Aaron (T-W)		6-3	210	31	9	Oregon State
Gent, Pete (W-T)		6-4	205	27	6	Michigan State
Koontz, Joe (W)		6-1	192	23	2	San Francisco State
Houston, Dick (W)		6-2	197	24	1	East Texas State
Wilson, Butch (T)		6-2	228	27	7	Alabama
White, Freeman (T)		6-5	225	24	4	Nebraska
<i>(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker</i>					<i>(T)—Tight End</i>	
INTERIOR LINEMEN						
Young, Willie (T)		6-3	265	24	4	Grambling
Case, Pete (G)		6-3	250	28	8	Georgia
Larson, Greg (C)		6-3	250	30	9	Minnesota
Harper, Charlie (G)		6-2	250	24	4	Oklahoma
Wright, Steve (T)		6-6	250	27	6	Alabama
Gross, Andy (G)		6-0	235	23	3	Auburn
Hinton, Chuck (C)		6-2	235	26	3	Mississippi
Buzin, Rich (T)		6-4	250	24	2	Penn State
Dess, Darrell (G)		6-0	245	34	12	North Carolina State
<i>(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center</i>						
KICKER						
Gogolak, Pete		6-1	185	27	4	Cornell

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN		Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Miller, Clark (E)	6-5	246	31	8	Utah State	
Silas, Sam (T)	6-4	255	28	7	Southern Illinois	
Lurtsema, Bob (T)	6-6	250	25	3	Western Michigan	
Dryer, Fred (E)	6-6	240	22	1	San Diego State	
Katcavage, Jim (E)	6-3	240	34	14	Dayton	
Anderson, Bruce (E)	6-4	250	25	4	Willamette	
Anderson, Roger (T)	6-5	265	28	6	Virginia Union	
<i>(E)—End (T)—Tackle</i>						
LINEBACKERS		Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Avery, Ken (O)	6-1	220	24	3	Southern Mississippi	
Davis, Henry (M)	6-3	235	24	2	Grambling	
Crutcher, Tommy (O)	6-3	230	27	6	Texas Christian	
Heck, Ralph (O)	6-1	230	27	7	Colorado	
Boston, McKinley (O)	6-2	245	23	2	Minnesota	
Ciccolella, Mike (M)	6-1	235	25	4	Dayton	
Brown, Barry (O)	6-2	235	26	4	Florida	
<i>(O)—Outside Linebacker</i>		<i>(M)—Middle Linebacker</i>				
CORNERBACKS		Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Eaton, Scott	6-2	195	24	3	Oregon State	
Williams, Willie	6-1	190	26	5	Grambling	
Holifield, Jimmy	6-3	195	23	2	Jackson State	
SAFETIES		Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Maher, Bruce (S)	5-11	185	31	10	Detroit	
Lockhart, Spider (W)	6-2	175	26	5	North Texas State	
Hathcock, Dave (W-S)	6-0	190	26	3	Memphis State	
Brenner, Al (S)	6-1	200	22	1	Michigan State	
<i>(S)—Strong Side</i>		<i>(W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety</i>				

Performance Quotients

Tarkenton has enlivened Giants, but not really sparked club with his scrambling, ad-libbing tactics. A fair enough passer and a fine running QB. Lane needs work. Wood small, lesser Fran-type. PERF. QT.: 3.

A struggling group of pluggers, deficient in speed, without much flair. Frederickson's career has been wrecked by knee troubles; still he runs well enough, holds onto passes and blocks. Koy is about the same. Duhon has some speed, must still learn things. Minniear has limited talents, can only be backup. Blye has speed, but much to learn. Jacobs back again from injury, could help. Dyer, from Rams, is young, big, strong—could help. PERF. QT.: 4.

Jones is game-breaker, one way or another. He runs patterns sometimes on his own, can make great catch for dazzling touchdown, then let an easy one slip away. Morrison is versatile, not spectacular, lends steadiness to corps. Thomas has better than usual TE speed, lacks TE size. Could be moved to flanker if experiment with White at TE works. White has size, but been lost on defense. Unit doesn't seem to mesh as well as it should. Gent adds maneuverability. Koontz is promising. Wilson is a backup only, Houston might help. PERF. QT.: 3.

Tough job blocking for Fran Tarkenton, who scrambles willy-nilly; blockers are never certain where he is headed. Often they have to re-block and always have to be prepared to become emergency runners with laterals from Fran. Not bad on straight pass blocking. Case is a fine guard, though underrated. Larson is a tough center. Wright needs some competitive fire, but has the size and technique. Young and Harper are eager, still learning while playing. Compared with other lines, this group is ordinary. Buzin could start when he masters techniques. Competition among Gross, Hinton, Dess for job. PERF. QT.: 4.

Placekicker Gogo is reliable. Koy punts high, short. PERF. QT.: 3.

Desperate repair job done on unit, which lacked rushing strength and was ordinary vs. run. Miller, fine rusher, moves in via trade, but switches to left end from natural side. Highly touted rookie Dryer placed on right side. Has raw ability, but must learn while on job and will make rookie mistakes. Silas a fair tackle. Lurtsema seems to be improving into adequate tackler, rusher. Katcavage, aged, hopes to regain job. Both Andersons reservists. PERF. QT.: 4.

Unit, new last year, returns intact and could mesh well. Avery hits hard, has good ability. Davis, in second year, should blossom. Has fine size. Crutcher is tough, Green Bay trained, fine covering flank. Giant linebackers have tougher job because they're backing up an unexceptional line. Reserves are decent with Boston most promising, Brown, Ciccolella, Heck experienced. Heck could push Avery if latter disappoints. PERF. QT.: 3.

Improvement seen. Williams, shunted around often, has found niche, led NFL in interceptions. Eaton should come along. Still had tendency to permit short pass. Tough tackler. Holifield backup. PERF. QT.: 3.

Maher gives Giants best coverage of tight ends in years; he's a tough tackler, but has inclination to be beaten by bigger receivers. Lockhart, free safety, has good speed with ability on pass coverage. Hathcock average, Brenner a high-potential rookie who'll stick. PERF. QT.: 2.

NFL EAST/CENTURY DIVISION

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Prediction: Fourth

The Steelers long have been the deadbeats of pro football, a sinfully squandering franchise. A combination of trading away priority draft choices for everybody's troublemaking veterans and unwise drafting has perpetuated the image of the loser. Add to this a succession of coaching changes, three in the last five seasons, and the result is a pro football wasteland.

"Who wants to play in Denver?" was the old snide NFL statement of haughtiness to the AFL.

"Well, who wants to play in Pittsburgh?" was the AFL's justified retort.

At last, there is now some hope in Pittsburgh; a year from now the team will be playing in the AFL. The Steelers, founded in 1933, are destined to make the transition without ever having won so much as an NFL divisional title. There is no way they can win one this final season.

But the Steelers have done something about improving their image. Most vital, they have started using some smarts in the draft. They had the best draft in their history, the best potentially of any pro club this year. They selected Joe Greene, the best college defensive lineman of 1968, and Terry Hanratty, who was the best quarterback. And these are two areas of prime importance where the Steelers were simply woeful.

Pittsburgh also has a new coach, which is part of the routine. The man the Steelers hired this time happened to be one of the best assistants in the NFL. He is Chuck Noll, who was lured from Baltimore's staff. Noll, accustomed to victories, will suffer for a time. But eventually his team should produce. His immediate objectives are to develop a passing game and a defense. Already you can see the wisdom of the '69 draft.

"You don't win championships with rookies," said Noll. "It is a rare thing for a rookie to come in and do great things."

But the Steelers are not thinking of

winning a championship right now. The Steelers need a pass rush. Greene, it is anticipated, will be somewhere on the defensive line immediately. It is improbable Hanratty will be heavily used early.

Instead, the Steelers in training camp are more likely to have a two-man confrontation for No. 1 quarterback. Dick Shiner and Kent Nix split the assignment in 1968. Nix had it and lost it and Shiner, well-traveled and a professional backup until last year, did somewhat better.

Rookie quarterbacks are used only in emergencies—on expansion clubs, because of injury or Army calls. It would be a gamble to force-feed Hanratty so soon. But he is to be the Steelers' passer of the 70's, and he will play some this year while absorbing knowledge about pro football.

The Steelers have receivers and runners, but their ground game is somewhat slow. Roy Jefferson is the team's offensive standout, among the top four wide receivers in the NFL. He has great speed and ability to go deep and score. Jefferson was second in the number of catches last year and leader in receiving yardage. J.R. Wilburn, another speed man, plays on the other side. John Hilton is an adequate tight end. Ken Hebert, Dick Kotite and Marshall Cropper provide some receiving depth.

Noll speaks of smartness, not speed, when discussing the running. The ball carriers are Dick Hoak and Earl Gros. They promise the Steelers a ground game that will move the ball. . . if the passing becomes more consistent so that defenses do not stand in wait for Hoak and Gros. Behind these two are Bill Asbury, Don Shy and a good-sized rookie, Warren Bankston.

There can be some improvement on the line, which is attuned to the running attack. John Brown, Larry Gagner, Ray Mansfield, Bruce Van Dyke and Mike Taylor are the returning regulars. They'll likely start the season

that way with Ernie Ruple and Sam Davis in backup roles.

"A measured statistic is the points scored against the defense," Noll said, noting that the Steelers permitted six touchdowns, or the equivalent, in four of last year's games. "When you allow approximately 400 points (the 397 Pittsburgh allowed was the league high) you must say you are not doing well. We hope to cut that figure down considerably, perhaps in half."

Considerably, anyway.

"Greene will not be our salvation, but he should be a contributor. . . he's a great pass rusher," said Noll.

Somebody's going to lose a job to Greene on the defensive line. The returnees are Ben McGee and Lloyd Voss at end, Ken Kortas and Chuck Hinton at tackle with Frank Parker in reserve.

The linebackers have been the Steelers' strongest unit on defense. Opposing runners say they hit as hard as any linebacking trio in the league. Andy Russell, unsung but extremely talented, and John Campbell play on the outside. Ray May is the middle man. Bill Saul backs up in the middle and Ernie Clark and Jerry Hillebrand fill in on the outside and supply some good pass coverage.

The backfield coverage has to be improved. Bob Hohn and Marv Woodson play the corners, Paul Martha and Clendon Thomas the safeties. The Steelers have been beaten deep in the past, and it likely will continue to be a flaw.

The placekicking remains a trouble spot. Booth Lusteg, an old AFL nomad, finally got the job in the middle of last season. His kicking even supplied one of the year's two victories. But he is erratic even from close in. Bobby Walden, a veteran, handles the Steelers' punting in style.

Fourth place this year, but by the time the Steelers join the AFL they could be at least be a facsimile of a football team.

1968 RECORD (2-11-1)

SYMBOLS

†—League leader
 ††—Tied for league lead

20	New York	34
10	Los Angeles	45
7	Baltimore	41
24	Cleveland	31
13	Washington	16
12	New Orleans	16
6	Philadelphia	3
41	Atlanta	21
28	St. Louis	28
24	Cleveland	45
28	San Francisco	45
10	St. Louis	20
7	Dallas	28
14	New Orleans	24

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Jefferson	12	0	0	72
Lusteg	0	26	8	50
Gros	6	0	0	36
Hoak	4	0	0	24

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Jefferson	58	1074†	11	62	18.5
Wilburn	39	514	3	41	13.2
Hoak	28	253	1	30	9.0
Gros	27	211	3	21	7.8

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Martha	3	43	0	23	14.3
May	3	31	1	25	10.3
Woodson	3	23	0	12	7.7
Thomas	3	0	0	0	0.0

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Walden	68	2745	57	40.4

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Hoak	175	858	3	77†	4.9
Gros	151	579	3	44	3.9
Shy	35	106	1	39	3.1
Jefferson	6	57	0	22	9.5
Shiner	13	53	0	12	4.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Jefferson	28††	274	1	80	9.8
Harris	6	21	0	10	3.5

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Shiner	304	148	1856	61	18	17	48.7
Nix	130	56	720	61	4	8	43.1

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Shy	28	682	0	80	24.4
Henderson	29	589	0	44	20.3

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Shiner, Dick	6-0	197	27	6	Maryland
Nix, Kent	6-2	195	25	3	Texas Christian
Hanratty, Terry	6-1	200	21	1	Notre Dame

RUNNING BACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Hoak, Dick	5-11	195	29	9	Penn State
Gros, Earl	6-3	220	29	8	Louisiana State
Shy, Don	6-1	205	23	3	San Jose State
Asbury, Bill	6-1	225	26	4	Kent State
Bankston, Warren	6-4	226	22	1	Tulane
Campbell, Bob	6-0	195	22	1	Penn State

RECEIVERS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jefferson, Roy (W)	6-2	190	25	5	Utah
Wilburn, J.R. (W)	6-2	190	26	4	South Carolina
Hilton, John (T)	6-5	222	27	5	Richmond
Cropper, Marshall (W)	6-3	200	25	3	Maryland State
Kotite, Dick (T)	6-3	235	24	3	Wagner
Hebert, Ken (W)	6-0	200	23	2	Houston

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Brown, John (T)	6-2	255	30	8	Syracuse
Gagner, Larry (G)	6-3	240	25	4	Florida
Mansfield, Ray (C)	6-3	240	28	7	Pittsburgh
Van Dyke, Bruce (G)	6-2	246	25	4	Missouri
Taylor, Mike (T)	6-4	246	24	2	Southern California
Davis, Sam (G)	6-1	245	25	3	Allen
Ruple, Ernie (T)	6-4	256	23	2	Arkansas

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Lusteg, Booth	5-11	190	30	4	Connecticut
Walden, Bobby	6-0	190	31	6	Georgia

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
McGee, Ben (E)	6-3	250	30	6	Jackson State
Hinton, Chuck (T)	6-5	258	30	6	North Carolina College
Kortas, Ken (T)	6-4	280	27	6	Louisville
Greene, Joe (E-T)	6-4	270	21	1	North Texas State
Voss, Lloyd (E)	6-4	256	27	6	Nebraska
Parker, Frank (T)	6-4	255	29	7	Oklahoma State
Arndt, Dick (T)	6-5	265	25	3	Idaho

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Campbell, John (O)	6-3	225	30	7	Minnesota
May, Ray (M)	6-1	230	24	3	Southern California
Russell, Andy (O)	6-2	225	27	5	Missouri
Saul, Bill (M)	6-4	232	28	7	Penn State
Clark, Ernie (O)	6-1	230	32	7	Michigan State
Hillebrand, Jerry (O)	6-3	240	29	7	Colorado
Capp, Dick (O)	6-3	235	25	3	Boston College

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Hohn, Bob	6-0	185	25	5	Nebraska
Woodson, Marv	6-0	195	28	6	Indiana
Wade, Bob	6-2	200	24	2	Morgan State
Harris, Lou	6-0	180	23	2	Kent State
Henderson, Jon	6-0	195	24	2	Colorado State

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Thomas, Clendon (S)	6-2	200	33	12	Oklahoma
Martha, Paul (W)	6-0	187	27	6	Pittsburgh
Foruria, John (S-W)	6-2	205	24	3	Idaho

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Shiner is incumbent, just a fair passer and leader. Took job away from Nix in mid-'68 when offense fluttered. Hanratty is future hope—a great prospect with strong arm. PERF. QT.: 4.

Rather dangerous. Hoak is not rapid, but he gets there by plugging. Knows how to pick the few holes he sees. Gros has become a strong runner, good straight-ahead power. His improvement has aided Hoak. Shy is troubled by fumbleitis, but is fastest back and a contributor. Asbury, when not hurt, has fine power and flair. Bankston appears as classic prospect, Campbell questionable. PERF. QT.: 3.

Jefferson can only catch from one direction, but is fast and dangerous, a top receiver. Wilburn is the perfect mate for him because with him defenses cannot concentrate on Jefferson. Hilton is a decent tight end—not spectacular, but he can move with ball. Cropper's size gives him edge over Hebert. Kotite is the usual backup tight end. Steelers have been improving in this area the last few years. PERF. QT.: 2.

Has been a weak area, a glaring reason for longtime troubles. Line is remade annually. Coach Noll could do so again. Does not supply ample protection and QBs get knocked down more than most. Lineup looks like it will be Brown, Gagner, Mansfield, Van Dyke, Taylor with Ruple challenging for steady work. Gagner has become good pro. Van Dyke shows promise. These guards help runners outside. Taylor is a fine prospect, but needs lots of honing. Davis is so-so. PERF. QT.: 4.

Lusteg has been all over as placekicker, could be replaced at any time. Limited range, erratic. Walden punts well enough. PERF. QT.: 5.

Steelers always have had painful pass rush, much tougher than expected. Key to improvement is Greene, the top defensive player in last draft. Good moves, great size and strength, quick—he should break in somewhere along line. McGee is strong pass rusher, Hinton and Kortas plug up the middle with girth. Voss, a decent rush man, could be the one to lose job to Greene. In background are Parker, a good tackler, and Arndt, who is fighting to keep a spot. PERF. QT.: 3.

Vastly under-recognized unit, but highly praised by opposing players. Campbell, May and Russell are a tough, hard-hitting group with good pursuit and decent blitz strength. Some regard Russell as outside backer with All-Pro qualities. Unit has excellent depth in Saul, Clark, Capp and pass interception specialist Hillebrand. Saul and Clark could be regulars if anybody falters or is hurt. Backers blend in well with rest of defense, good on pass coverage. PERF. QT.: 2.

Just a fair combination. Hohn still has to learn about coverage, is troubled by the better receivers. Woodson has good speed, knowledge and defends well enough. Wade, Harris or Henderson could win jobs in camp. It would be better for a porous pass defense if one of them did. This is a trouble spot. PERF. QT.: 5.

Unit returns intact, Thomas and Martha are forced into extra work by cornerback problems. Each handles run well enough, Martha OK pass defender. Foruria backs up either side. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL EAST/CAPITOL DIVISION

DALLAS COWBOYS

Prediction: First

The Cowboys have a sacred mission in 1969. This is the team of high success—until the final game—that has been assembled by Tex Schramm, Pete Rozelle's crony and NFL secret agent in the NFL-AFL merger. Now a year from consummation of the merger, the NFL's prestige is suffering. This is why the Cowboys' mission is so vital. This team of so-often frustrated athletes will be playing not only for themselves now...they are fighting for the pride of the entire NFL.

Dallas is the team that has to prevent Cleveland and/or Baltimore from fleeing into the AFL next year with the NFL's championship. How would it look for the National Conference, or NFL, to open business in 1970 and not even have a defending champion...its champion in the rival league? Terrible, disgraceful, humiliating.

The question for this year is how will the Cowboys recover? Will Don Meredith stay retired? If so, can the Cowboys put their faith in his replacement, Craig Morton? Will the Anguished last-game happenings of the past three years affect them now?

Tom Landry resembles a country parson and he discusses his team with an evangelical zeal. He is the only coach this franchise has had in its decade of existence. He has suffered cruelly as his team lost two NFL championships in two last minutes by two yards and then collapsed at Cleveland in a playoff, all in three years.

"All of this has had a maturing effect on the club," says Landry. "All of the talking we could ever do could not match the experience. This should be a positive step in us being better."

So a negative becomes a positive in Dallas.

"The team we had last year was the only real good football team we've had," says Landry. "And yet we didn't reach as high. And we were better prepared to reach it than we had ever been. We should be even better this year."

There have been months to heal from the last, bitter setback. When it happened, Schramm and Meredith stood together on the sidelines at Cleveland in tears. Meredith was believed done with the Cowboys. They had been unable to win everything with him, always stopped so close. Meredith had to take the brunt. Landry even said there would be competition this year at quarterback. Patient Craig Morton would have to be rewarded with a shot at No. 1 in 1969, the coach said in the spring.

Then, on the July 4 weekend, Meredith announced his retirement. Dandy Don didn't feel up to the mental commitment necessary to embark on another season, he said. Whether he will answer a frantic call from his team remains to be seen, but the fact is that Landry's response to Meredith's retirement was noticeably bland.

So it's up to Morton, with Roger Staubach, ex-Navy All-America, in reserve. Roger, despite his excellent credentials and despite the fact that Landry believes him capable of mastering the Dallas system in one year instead of four or five, doesn't figure to help much on a championship drive. Morton has shown an ability to rescue games that might otherwise have been lost. Now we see if he can finish what he has started.

The Cowboys thrive with the fastest, most varied, most destructive offense in all of football. The quarterbacks operate behind a magnificent offensive line in company with the best set of wide receivers in football and sufficient running balance. The defense, while not as spectacular, is the best in the East.

Bob Hayes and Lance Rentzel turn medium and deep passing into a track meet. No defense can smother both for an entire game. They are dangerous when aligned on opposite sides of the field. They are just as dangerous when the two line up on the same side, in the slot that Dallas pioneered. The over-

all receiving should now be more menacing with the acquisition of Mike Ditka. The Cowboys should exploit the tight end more with Ditka, who once had the knack of moving with the ball after catching it. That was when he was a happier player and he should be happy again in Dallas. Landry says Ditka first must beat out returnee Pettis Norman at the position. Chances are he will.

The running is adequate to complement the passing. Don Perkins, though light, long has been a fine fullback. He slices, rather than booms through the middle. Perkins now leads in total career ground gaining among active rushers. Dan Reeves has returned from knee surgery to run with Perkins. Reeves, while not flashy, goes well outside and is a constant threat on the option pass. He'll have to regain his job from young Craig Baynham, who has become a fine runner. The Cowboys also have Les Shy and Walt Garrison and a fine prospect in hulking Calvin Hill, who adds power.

The major names on the line are tackle Ralph Neely, an All-Pro and guard John Niland, who escorts the sweeps well. Tackle Tony Liscio is strong and consistent. Dave Manders will bid to reclaim his center position from Malcolm Walker. John Wilbur is the returnee at the other guard. There is line depth, too, with Rayfield Wright and Blaine Nye.

Bob Lilly and George Andrie lead a fine pass rush line that might not be as destructive as some others but is as effective. Jethro Pugh has become a fine tackle. There is competition at left end between Larry Cole, a surprise last year, and Willie Townes.

Landry has revamped the linebacking scheme. Chuck Howley, outstanding on pass coverage, is to be flip flopped, always to the weakside to pick up pass catching backs. Dave Edwards always will be on the strong side. Lee Roy Jordan capably takes care of the

Cont. on Page 101

1968 RECORD (13-3)

SYMBOLS

†—League leader
*—Retired

59	Detroit	13
28	Cleveland	7
45	Philadelphia	13
27	St. Louis	10
34	Philadelphia	14
20	Minnesota	7
17	Green Bay	28
17	New Orleans	3
21	New York	27
44	Washington	24
34	Chicago	3
29	Washington	20
28	Pittsburgh	7
28	New York	10
20	Cleveland	31
17	Minnesota	13
	(Eastern Title)	
	(Playoff Bowl)	

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Clark	0	54†	17	105
Hayes	12	0	0	72
Baynham	8	0	0	48
Perkins	6	0	0	36
Rentzel	6	0	0	36

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Rentzel	54	1009	6	65	18.7
Hayes	53	909	10	54	17.2
Baynham	29	380	3	40	13.1
Norman	18	204	1	34	11.3

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Howley	6	115	1	58	19.2
Green	4	73	1	55	18.3
Gaechter	3	23	0	17	7.6
Jordan	3	17	0	7	5.7
Johnson	3	3	0	3	1.0
Renfro	3	5	0	5	1.7

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Perkins	191	836	4	28	4.4
Baynham	103	438	5	22	4.3
Garrison	45	271	5	22	5.9
Shy	64	279	1	17	2.8
Reeves	40	178	4	24	4.5

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Widby	59	2415	84†	40.9

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Hayes	15	312	2†	90	20.8†
Rentzel	14	93	0	27	6.6

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
*Meredith	309	171	2500	65	21	12	55.3
Morton	85	44	752	53	4	6	51.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Baynham	23	590	0	40	25.7
Daniels	9	193	0	32	21.5

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Morton, Craig	6-4	214	26	5	California
Staubach, Roger	6-2	207	27	1	Navy

RUNNING BACKS

Perkins, Don	5-10	200	31	9	New Mexico
Reeves, Danny	6-1	200	25	5	South Carolina
Baynham, Craig	6-1	206	25	3	Georgia Tech
Garrison, Walt	6-0	205	25	4	Oklahoma State
Shy, Les	6-1	200	25	4	Long Beach State
Hill, Calvin	6-3	230	22	1	Yale

RECEIVERS

Hayes, Bob (W)	5-11	185	26	5	Florida
Rentzel, Lance (W)	6-2	200	25	5	Oklahoma
Ditka, Mike (T)	6-2	225	29	9	Pittsburgh
Homan, Dennis (W)	6-1	181	23	2	Alabama
Conrad, Bobby Joe (W)	6-2	200	33	12	Texas A&M
Randle, Sonny (W)	6-2	195	33	11	Virginia
Norman, Pettis (T)	6-3	220	30	8	J.C. Smith
Flowers, Richmond (W)	6-0	183	22	1	Tennessee

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T) Tight End

- INTERIOR LINEMEN

Liscio, Tony (T)	6-5	255	29	6	Tulsa
Niland, John (G)	6-3	245	25	4	Iowa
Walker, Malcolm (C)	6-4	249	26	4	Rice
Wilbur, John (G)	6-3	240	26	4	Stanford
Neely, Ralph (T)	6-6	265	25	5	Oklahoma
Donohue, Leon (G)	6-4	245	30	7	San Jose State
Wright, Rayfield (T)	6-7	250	23	3	Fort Valley State
Manders, Dave (C)	6-2	250	28	5	Michigan State

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Clark, Mike	6-2	210	28	7	Texas A&M
Widby, Ron	6-4	210	23	2	Tennessee

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Cole, Larry (E)	6-4	255	23	2	Hawaii
Pugh, Jethro (T)	6-6	260	25	5	Elizabeth City
Lilly, Bob (T)	6-5	260	30	9	Texas Christian
Andrie, George (E)	6-7	250	29	8	Marquette
Townes, Willie (E)	6-4	265	26	4	Tulsa
East, Ron (T)	6-4	242	26	3	Montana State
Hagen, Halvor (E)	6-5	255	22	1	Weber State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Edwards, Dave (O)	6-1	228	29	7	Auburn
Jordan, Lee Roy (M)	6-1	219	28	7	Alabama
Howley, Chuck (O)	6-2	225	33	11	West Virginia
Burkett, Jackie (O)	6-4	228	32	9	Auburn
Lewis, D.D. (M)	6-2	210	24	2	Mississippi State
Stincic, Tom (O)	6-3	230	23	1	Michigan

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Green, Cornell	6-3	208	28	8	Utah State
Renfro, Mel	6-0	190	27	6	Oregon
Clark, Phil	6-2	210	24	3	Northwestern
Johnson, Mike	5-11	184	25	4	Kansas

SAFETIES

Gaechter, Mike (S)	6-0	190	29	8	Oregon
Daniels, Dick (W)	5-9	180	24	4	Pacific
Kmieciak, Ken (S-W)	6-2	187	23	1	Illinois

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

If Don Meredith sticks to retirement, Cowboys will be troubled. Morton has savvy, lacks starting experience. Staubach raw. PERF. QT.: 3.

Until condition of Reeves' knee is ascertained, running could be subpar. Perkins is a fine, straight-ahead back with limited size. Can block, but seldom a receiver. Reeves sweeps well, catches well, dangerous on option pass. Baynham runs perhaps better than Reeves, but doesn't have versatility. Garrison looks sharp, but is hardly used. Shy promises. Cowboys have high expectations for rookie Hill. PERF. QT.: 3.

Most lightning receiver group in football, even better now with addition of Ditka at TE. Nobody can cover Hayes, Rentzel is almost as unstoppable and variety of formations drive defenses nuts. Hayes still doesn't like crowds, but when he's open any play can be a TD. Rentzel is more rugged, more elusive and nearly as fast. Ditka, if happy, can revert to excellence. Fine depth in reliable Norman, young and speedy Homan, vet Randle and clutch catcher Conrad. More speed in rookie Flowers. PERF. QT.: 1.

Dallas QBs don't go down too often, a tribute to the fine line. Neely is a hulk at RT. All-Pro quality with a forte of pass blocking. Liscio helps the running game go. Niland has become an outstanding guard, helpful on the sweeps. Wilbur and Walker are decent blockers, both on runs and passes. There is more good depth in this area. Manders could reclaim old job as starting center if he's healthy. Wright is powerful and could star elsewhere. Donohue also is a former starter. Bonus is comparative youth of all starting blockers. PERF. QT.: 2.

Clark fills long yearning for a reliable field goal man, making complete an outstanding offense. Widby is an adequate punter. PERF. QT.: 2.

This is the best rushing line in the NFL East. It is strong, quick and a nuisance to quarterbacks. Lilly is a fine pass rusher, outstanding at plugging running holes. Pugh has learned to make all plays. Andrie, with great height, is devastating on pass rush. Cole and Townes will contest at LE in a dogfight. Cole has edge early because of Townes' injury recovery. But Townes has experience, a superb rusher. Again depth is great plus with East and Hagen. PERF. QT.: 2.

A fine unit with a new maneuver. Quick, agile Howley will flop always to weak side to capitalize on his man-to-man pass coverage abilities. That puts Edwards on strong side. He's better against runs than passes. Jordan is extremely capable in middle against runs and has suitable range. This is one area where depth is needed. Stincic might provide it with reserves Lewis and Burkett. PERF. QT.: 3.

Switch of Renfro to right corner took care of deficiency and he has speed and ability to improve with experience at new spot. Green long has been a fine pass defender on left and he also handles job coming up on runs. Again depth is good with Clark and Johnson. PERF. QT.: 3.

Weak spot of defense, passes down middle could hurt. Gaechter, very tough, is good against the run, bothersome to tight ends. Daniels still learning. Rookie Kmiec an unknown. Need depth here. PERF. QT.: 4.

NFL EAST/CAPITOL DIVISION

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Prediction: Second

Vince Lombardi arrived in Washington and quickly went to the projection room in the Redskins' office. Lombardi watched reel after reel of defensive footage and he did not see what he had seen in the movies at Green Bay. Finally he emerged and in conversation with Edward Bennett Williams, the noted lawyer who is club president, said: "Defense, there's no defense."

Williams grinned and replied: "If there were, Otto Graham would still be the coach."

So Lombardi has confronted himself with his second resuscitation job in a decade. What he did in restoring the Packers is unmatched in professional football. But this one could be more difficult. The Redskins have not had a winning season since 1955—four years before Lombardi alighted in Green Bay.

"I hope to be a winner the first year," Vincent decreed in Washington. The man knows nothing else. He once told an audience about finishing second and his disdain for its reward, the Runnerup Bowl. Pete Rozelle promptly censured him.

To become a winner, Lombardi hastily has to build a defense for the Redskins. He has already solved one problem—how Sonny Jurgensen, the sometimes playboy, roundish quarterback would take to his discipline.

Jurgy started going to the movies too, started absorbing the offense, studying, working overtime—anything to become a quarterback with a winner. Noting that Lombardi is a conservative and anti-fadist, Jurgy even shorn himself of sideburns.

"Everything is different with us now," said Jurgensen. "The general atmosphere, the players' attitudes, anything you name. We're not going to resemble the club we had in the past in any way.

"His knowledge of the game is unbelievable. So are his coaching techniques and the systems he uses."

In Lombardi's system the quarterback actually is a mechanical extension of the coach on the field. Doing such with individualist Jurgensen presumably was going to be a problem. It is typical of Lombardi that Jurgensen was the first follower he enlisted.

This reformed blithe spirit is a smooth, experienced quarterback with what is regarded as the best pure passing abilities in football. His arm is strong, his passes straight. Lombardi has declared Gary Beban will be the backup to Jurgensen.

The Redskins' offense is likely to continue to be dominated by the pass. All efficient offenses need running for balance, to maintain the pass as an effective device.

Washington does not have much in the way of running. One of Lombardi's desires is to seek an experienced runner elsewhere. The returning men—Gerry Allen, Steve Thurlow, A.D. Whitfield—are functional. At the end of last season, Pete Larson and Bob Brunet were the starters. Bulging Ray McDonald is another Lombardi reclamation project.

Without much running, the receivers get extra work and Jurgensen has a fine set performing with him. Charley Taylor, fast and strong, has been the top receiver in the league. Jerry Smith is a fine flanker and Pat Richter does a dandy job at tight end. Bobby Mitchell still has some speed and is in reserve. Marlin McKeever and Ken Barefoot are competing for the reserve tight end job.

The offensive line is one of the better groups in the NFL. It has depth enough for Lombardi to offer some of the excess around to acquire a runner. Len Hauss is a standout center and tackle Walter Rock and guard John Wooten, once fine blockers elsewhere, are happier in Washington. In addition to them, Lombardi inherited Ray Schoenke, Mitch Johnson, Vince Promuto, Jim Snowden, Willie Banks and Don Bandy.

But the defense...it makes Lombardi grimace.

"Defensively we need a lot of help," says Lombardi. "We need it at end, linebacker, cornerback."

In hopes of alleviating the situation, one of Lombardi's early actions was to persuade Sam Huff out of retirement. Another was to trade for safety Tom Brown, who had played under Lombardi at Green Bay.

Huff has been retired for a year and will help coach the linebackers as well as play in the middle. "He's a player first," says Lombardi. If Huff can be 75 percent of what he used to be, the defense will improve. He would give the Redskins two fine linebackers. Chris Hanburger is the other, a good blitzing from the right side. Mike Morgan, Ed Breeding and Tom Rousell are shooting for the other spot.

The pass rush...what pass rush? Carl Kammerer is one of the players singled out by Lombardi as a good defensive holdover. He's the right end. He plays with Joe Rutgens, Dennis Crane and either Walt Barnes or Spain Musgrove.

The secondary also is vulnerable. The safeties will be OK with Brown and Brig Owens. Cornerback is a weak spot. Pat Fischer and Rickie Harris are the holdovers. Lombardi brought in Mike Bass, last with Detroit. Bass impressed Lombardi at Green Bay, where there were no vacancies.

The kicking is very reliable with Charlie Gogolak sidwinding field goals and Mike Bragg booming punts.

One wonders how Lombardi will react to lots of little problems. He has had few since he revived Green Bay from a similar plight 10 years ago. There Lombardi picked up a lot of veterans at the beginning and then established his successful pattern of stockpiling high draft choices for expendable players. In Washington the Redskins were without a first and second draft choice this year and will be without a first next year.

OFFENSE							
QUARTERBACKS						Performance Quotients	
Jurgensen, Sonny	6-0	203	35	13	Duke	Jurgy is NFL's best natural passer. He's likely to pass 50 percent of plays. Beban is gamble. PERF. QT.: 1.	
Beban, Gary	6-1	195	23	2	UCLA		
RUNNING BACKS						The Redskins need runners desperately. They have no reliable ball carrier to balance offense. McDonald could be if he lives up to potential, but probably he'll barely stick with club. Allen is adequate and is a good receiver. Thurlow with fine size has been physically vulnerable. Whitfield is ordinary. Larson and Brunet, starters late in '68, are only reserve types. No speed from anybody. PERF. QT.: 5.	
Allen, Gerry	6-1	200	28	4	Omaha		
Thurlow, Steve	6-3	222	27	6	Stanford		
Whitfield, A.D.	5-10	200	26	5	North Texas State		
Larson, Pete	6-1	200	25	3	Cornell		
Brunet, Bob	6-1	205	23	2	Louisiana Tech		
McDonald, Ray	6-4	240	25	3	Idaho	An exceptional receiving unit with explosive Taylor, swift Smith and rangy Richter. Taylor has the speed-size to be annual contender for NFL receiving title. Smith is more flamboyant and serves as excellent foil for Taylor. Richter is underrated at tight end, catches everything thrown his way and blocks suitably. Depth is fine with Mitchell another deep threat and vet McKeever plus promising Barefoot. Rookie Cross might stick. PERF. QT.: 2.	
RECEIVERS							
Taylor, Charley (W)	6-3	210	28	6	Arizona State		
Smith, Jerry (W)	6-2	208	26	5	Arizona State		
Richter, Pat (T)	6-5	230	28	7	Wisconsin		
Mitchell, Bobby (W)	6-0	196	34	12	Illinois		
McKeever, Marlin (T)	6-0	235	29	9	Southern California	The protection is good and there is plenty of depth. Rock and Wooten, last year's additions, strengthened the blocking with their veteran savvy. Hauss, an excellent blocker and against the blitz, is considered All-Pro caliber as center. Promuto and Snowden do an outstanding job on the right side, especially on pass blocking. With existing depth, Skins could trade an extra blocker in deal for a runner. Schoenke, Bandy and Johnson all are capable of breaking into Washington's line or starting with another club. PERF. QT.: 2.	
Barefoot, Ken (T)	6-5	228	23	2	Virginia Tech		
Cross, Ed (W)	6-3	205	23	1	Arkansas AM&N		
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End							
INTERIOR LINEMEN							
Rock, Walt (T)	6-5	255	29	7	Maryland		
Wooten, John (G)	6-3	250	32	11	Colorado		
Hauss, Len (C)	6-2	235	27	6	Georgia		
Promuto, Vince (G)	6-1	245	31	10	Holy Cross		
Snowden, Jim (T)	6-3	255	27	5	Notre Dame		
Schoenke, Ray (G)	6-4	250	28	6	Southern Methodist		
Bandy, Don (T)	6-3	250	24	3	Tulsa		
Johnson, Mitch (T)	6-4	250	27	5	UCLA	Gogolak has a healthy leg again and therefore is dangerous from long range, sure from close in. Bragg is a terrific punter. PERF. QT.: 2.	
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center							
KICKERS							
Gogolak, Charlie	5-10	165	24	4	Princeton		
Bragg, Mike	5-11	186	22	2	Richmond		
DEFENSE						It is not menacing, not in the Lombardi tradition. Top men on rush are Rutgers and Kammerer. Musgrove could become a standout and is a possibility for regular end status this year. Crane has fine size, but he's green. Barnes is an average rusher and tackler. Bosch has much to learn. The trade for Long from New Orleans can prove helpful. He has experience, youth, potential. Norton, acquired from Philadelphia, provides experienced relief. The lack of a rush burdens the linebackers and backs. PERF. QT.: 2.	
FRONT LINEMEN							
Barnes, Walt (E-T)	6-3	250	25	4	Nebraska		
Crane, Dennis (T)	6-6	260	24	2	Southern California		
Rutgens, Joe (T)	6-2	255	30	9	Illinois		
Kammerer, Carl (E)	6-4	243	32	9	Pacific		
Musgrove, Spain (E)	6-4	275	24	3	Utah State		
Bosch, Frank (T)	6-4	246	23	2	Colorado		
Long, Dave (E)	6-4	243	24	4	Iowa		
Norton, Jim (T)	6-4	254	26	5	Washington		
(E)—End (T)—Tackle							
LINEBACKERS							
Morgan, Mike (O)	6-4	242	27	6	Louisiana State		
Huff, Sam (M)	6-1	230	35	13	West Virginia		
Hanburger, Chris (O)	6-2	218	28	5	North Carolina		
Breding, Ed (M-O)	6-4	235	24	3	Texas A&M		
Roussel, Tom (O)	6-3	235	24	2	Southern Mississippi		
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker							
CORNERBACKS						Lombardi looking for help here. Fischer has reputation, but has history of being beaten. He could be beaten out of job. His size is a handicap against larger receivers. Harris has speed and Martin has experience. Watch Bass, liked by Lombardi at Green Bay for quickness. Smith will stick on versatility. PERF. QT.: 4.	
Fischer, Pat	5-9	170	29	9	Nebraska		
Harris, Rickie	5-10	182	26	5	Arizona		
Martin, Aaron	6-0	180	27	6	North Carolina College		
Bass, Mike	6-0	190	23	2	Michigan		
Smith, Dick	6-0	205	25	3	Northwestern		
SAFETIES						Much improved with Brown, brought along by Lombardi from Green Bay. Good pass defender, tackler. Will roam more on weak side. Owens is good on pass coverage, against runs. Epps green. PERF. QT.: 2.	
Owens, Brig (S)	5-11	190	26	4	Cincinnati		
Brown, Tom (W)	6-1	195	28	6	Maryland		
Epps, Gene (W-S)	6-1	185	21	1	Texas-El Paso		
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety							

NFL EAST/CAPITOL DIVISION

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Prediction: Third

Joe Kuharich is gone away. Let's hear it—yippee, yea, hurray! Those are real cheers in Philadelphia, birthplace of the boo. The Eagles, the new Eagles, have not played yet, so this is the time for cheering. Kuharich is gone and that means the Eagles automatically qualify as contenders. After all wasn't that what the Joe Must Go movement was all about, and the boycott?

Well, they succeeded. There is a new owner, a new general manager and a new coach in the city where Santa Claus is hooted when he visits Franklin Field. Unfortunately, there are not too many new football players. Kuharich's fault, or course.

Many of the complaints against Kuharich were valid. But let us inspect what has happened since the posse chased him to the city limits last spring.

At a cost of \$16,155,000, Leonard Tose, a trucking magnate, purchased for himself the franchise, helping Jerry Wolman bail out. Tose's initial move was to hire Pete Retzlaff, an old fan darling, as general manager. GMs must handle players, discuss salaries and grievances and the like. Retzlaff just a few years ago was more than a player—he was a leading light in the players' union. It becomes more curious. One of Retzlaff's first moves was to trade away—make a virtual gift of—Bob Brown, who was unhappy in Philly. If the Eagles had one superstar, it was Bob Brown, the best offensive lineman in the league. It remains a mysterious deal because the Eagles certainly could have done better. The trade of Izzy Lang was almost as one-sided—against the Eagles.

Jerry Williams returned from Canada to succeed Kuharich as coach. Williams has never played for or coached a team that has suffered a losing season. This alone makes him unique in Philadelphia.

"The first thing I intend to do is try to inspire the Eagles with the thought of only winning," said

Williams. "I think the Eagles have the nucleus of a fine club."

This is going to take some brainwashing. By the grace of a muddy field which produced a four-field goal victory, the Eagles would also have O.J. Simpson this year. Instead they have Leroy Keyes, who can become an outstanding pro runner.

The Eagles will be able to run some—Tom Woodeshick is a fine solo runner. They will be able to pass some. They might be able to stop some scoring drives.

Norm Snead is back at quarterback and frankly, the guy is due for some good luck. Last year, for example, his cleats caught on the first play of the first exhibition and he broke his ankle.

Snead, though deliberate in setting up, is a fine, accurate passer. He has a top receiver in Ben Hawkins, who goes deep and can run. Gary Ballman is back at split end. Ballman was one of Kuharich's several player critics and was figured for trade. But when Joe went, Ballman was reprieved. He has moves to get open, though is slower than he once was. Fred Hill is the tight end with Mike Ditka gone.

The running can be outstanding. Woodeshick powers out his yardage and is indestructible. With a better club, he'd get the deserved recognition. Keyes will add some speed to the offense if he's used as a runner. That's where he'll be tried first. Some scouts claim he's more suited to be a flanker in the pros, while others say he'd be best at cornerback. The Eagles need help at all three spots.

The Eagles do have some running depth with Cyril Pinder, Dan Berry and Harry Wilson. Harry Jones could be a wide receiver.

The line has less quality and more quantity now with Brown traded away in the kind of deal Kuharich would have been hanged for. The Eagles got Joe Carollo to play a tackle and Don Chuy to play at guard in the trade with the Rams. Carollo has been a fine

tackle, but not in the class of Brown. Jim Skaggs returns after injury to compete with Dick Hart at a guard. Lane Howell returns as the other tackle. Mike Evans and Gene Ceppetelli again share the work at center.

Only three clubs allowed more points than the Eagles last year. Yet the defense is slowly improving. Mostly it can be detected in the defensive line where end Tim Rossoovich will be a standout and tackle Floyd Peters always has been reliable. It is, except for Peters, a young line. End Mel Tom is in his third season, tackle Gary Pettigrew in his fourth and Rossoovich is in his second. The pass rush is better. It has to be, because the linebacking and secondary are substandard. Only 13 interceptions last year, fewest in the league, attest to this.

The Eagles concentrated on linebackers in trades. Tony Guillory could win the middle over returnees Dave Lloyd and Ike Kelley. Jim Carroll, from Washington, could help. Ernie Calloway, a second draft choice, could be a linebacker starter as a rookie. Adrian Young is the only backer assured of a job.

The backfield is...dreadful. In addition to intercepting the fewest passes, the Eagles were guilty of permitting one of the highest percentages of completions. Al Nelson and Alvin Haymond are the incumbent corners with Nate Ramsey and Joe Scarpati back at the safeties. Bill Bradley could break in as a rookie. Irv Cross is likely to be lured back to active duty at a corner. Reacquired in the trade for Brown, he's an assistant coach.

The kicking doesn't usually trouble the Eagles, Sam Baker does both the punting and placekicking. Last year he had a game in which he missed three extra points. He won another with four field goals.

At least the cranky fans have been placated in Philadelphia. Now they won't boo the Eagles until the first home loss.

1968 RECORD (2-12)			SYMBOL		RECEIVING						INTERCEPTIONS					
13	Green Bay	30	**—Traded													
25	New York	34			Hawkins	42	707	5	92	16.8	Nelson	3	7	0	7	2.3
13	Dallas	45			Woodeshick	36	328	0	55	9.1	Scarpati	2	22	0	17	11.0
14	Washington	17			F. Hill	30	370	3	31	12.3	Ramsey	2	0	0	0	0.0
14	Dallas	34			Ballman	30	341	4	55	11.4	Wells	2	0	0	0	0.0
16	Chicago	29														
3	Pittsburgh	6	Baker	0	17	19	74									
17	St. Louis	45	Hawkins	5	0	0	30									
10	Washington	16	Ballman	4	0	0	24									
6	New York	7	F. Hill	3	0	0	18									
13	Cleveland	47	Woodeshick	3	0	0	18									
12	Detroit	0														
29	New Orleans	17														
17	Minnesota	24														

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	17	19	74
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18
3	0	0	18

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
217	947	3	54	4.4
69	235	0	17	3.4
40	117	0	21	2.9
1	30	0	30	30.0
9	27	0	9	3.0

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
55	2248	57	40.9

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
15	201	1	54	13.4
5	17	0	7	3.4

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Snead	291	152	1655	55	11	21	52.2
**K. Hill	71	33	531	92	3	6	46.5
Huarte	15	7	110	48	1	2	46.7

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
28	677	1	98	24.2
12	254	0	46	21.2
11	308	0	69	28.0

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Snead, Norm	6-4	215	30	9	Wake Forest
Huarte, John	6-0	190	25	2	Notre Dame
Dial, Benjy	6-1	185	26	2	Eastern New Mexico

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Woodeshick, Tom	6-0	225	27	7	West Virginia
Keyes, Leroy	6-3	208	21	1	Purdue
Jones, Harry	6-2	205	24	3	Arkansas
Pinder, Cyril	6-2	215	22	2	Illinois
Wilson, Harry	5-11	205	24	2	Nebraska
Berry, Dan	6-1	214	26	1	California

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Ballman, Gary (W)	6-1	205	29	8	Michigan State
Hawkins, Ben (W)	6-0	180	25	4	Arizona State
Hill, Fred (T)	6-2	215	26	5	Southern California
Hughes, Chuck (W)	5-11	175	26	3	Texas-El Paso
McDaniels, Dave (W)	6-3	189	24	2	Mississippi Valley
Kelly, Jim (T)	6-2	219	27	3	Notre Dame
Jackson, Harold (W)	5-10	175	23	2	Jackson State

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Howell, Lane (T)	6-5	272	28	7	Grambling
Chuy, Don (G)	6-1	255	27	7	Clemson
Evans, Mike (C)	6-5	250	23	2	Boston College
Skaggs, Jim (G)	6-3	252	29	6	Washington
Carollo, Joe (T)	6-2	265	29	8	Notre Dame
Graham, Dave (T)	6-3	250	30	6	Virginia
Hart, Dick (G)	6-2	251	26	3	None
Nordquist, Mark (T)	6-4	242	23	2	Pacific
Ceppetelli, Gene (C)	6-2	247	27	2	Villanova

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKER	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Baker, Sam	6-2	218	37	15	Oregon State

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Rossovich, Tim (E)	6-4	245	23	2	Southern California
Peters, Floyd (T)	6-4	255	33	11	San Francisco State
Pettigrew, Gary (T)	6-4	255	24	4	Stanford
Tom, Mel (E)	6-4	249	28	3	San Jose State
Hultz, Don (E)	6-3	242	28	7	Southern Mississippi
Beisler, Randy (E)	6-5	255	24	4	Indiana

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Young, Adrian (O)	6-1	225	23	2	Southern California
Lloyd, Dave (M)	6-3	248	32	11	Georgia
Wells, Harold (O)	6-2	224	30	5	Purdue
Guillory, Tony (O-M)	6-4	235	26	4	Lamar Tech
Carroll, Jim (O)	6-1	230	26	5	Notre Dame
Kelley, Ike (M)	6-2	222	25	3	Ohio State
Calloway, Ernie (O)	6-6	241	21	1	Texas Southern

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Nelson, Al	5-11	186	25	5	Cincinnati
Haymond, Alvin	6-0	194	27	6	Southern
Cross, Irv	6-1	195	30	9	Northwestern

SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Ramsey, Nate (S)	6-1	200	28	7	Indiana
Scarpati, Joe (W)	5-10	185	26	6	North Carolina State
Medved, Ron (S-W)	6-1	195	25	4	Washington
Bradley, Bill (W-S)	5-11	190	21	1	Texas

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Snead may be due for a good year, which never materialized before. He's slow but this isn't necessarily a drawback. He passes well. Scant backups in searmer Huarte, green Dial. PERF. QT.: 4.

Threat of Keyes will take keying defenses away from powerful, indestructible Woodeshick. Woody is one of NFL's fine runners—an excellent gainer, fine blocker. Keyes might take a while adapting to pros, but he has potential excellence. Jones still has promise, but gets hurt. Pinder is fast, still learning. Wilson is fragile and Berry unknown as runner. PERF. QT.: 3.

Hawkins is standout of a rather bleak group of receivers on a bleak team. He has fine moves and speed and is dangerous deep, if the ball ever gets there. Defenses will watch him while playing others loosely. Ballman has good moves and savvy, but he no longer represents a TD threat on every pass. Hill's lightness is against him at TE, but he catches the ball well. Hughes or McDaniels could press for a starting job. Jackson, from LA, has speed. Kelly a spare. PERF. QT.: 4.

Weakened by trade of Bob Brown. It was a nondescript group before, will be a trouble spot now. Carollo is a fine blocker, but not a Brown. Chuy should be a regular here. Howell has size to overpower rushers, but he doesn't always. Evans and Skaggs are workmanlike. The depth is pretty good. Graham has been around and has knowhow. Hart could become a fine guard. He's still learning some fundamentals. Nordquist and Ceppetelli rate as spares, trade bait or taxi squaders. It takes a while for made-over lines to mesh and this could bother the passing game until mid-season, or all year. PERF. QT.: 4.

Baker is erratic, more while placekicking than punting. PERF. QT.: 3.

Surprisingly solid and pretty deep. Rossovich, with quickness and maneuverability, will be a fine pass rusher, maybe this year. Peters long has suffered on a line that gave him meager help. Pettigrew has developed and is reliable on rush. Tom is a terrific charger. Behind them there are experienced Hultz and Beisler. Each has done a suitable job on the rush. PERF. QT.: 2.

Young could be a fine outside man in his second year. He seals well against sweeps. Lloyd has been average in the middle throughout his career. Guillory, from Rams, is promising and has some experience. He could start. Carroll, from Redskins, also could earn job. Kelley, a roughneck, will contest Lloyd, Guillory for starting assignment. Wells is a hitter from the outside. If Calloway fulfills potential, he will be an outstanding performer. PERF. QT.: 3.

Nelson does an adequate job on passes, fair against runs. Haymond has wealth of ability, still learning corner after playing safety for Colts. Cross, back from LA, likely to unretire. PERF. QT.: 3.

A strong area of Eagles' defense. Ramsey is a very fine man both on pass coverage and against runs. Scarpati roams well; he is a catalyst in defense. Medved is reliable and Bradley rates inspection on the basis of his college work. PERF. QT.: 2.

NFL EAST/CAPITOL DIVISION

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Prediction: Fourth

By tradition, a jerry-built expansion team is supposed to pay handsomely for a bunch of relics, be thankful for a place in the draft rotation and exude quiet patience. There should be no signs of greed or over-eagerness—and by no means should the lucky newcomer display ingratitude by raiding established rosters for star names.

Down in New Orleans, the Saints have developed their own method, which includes piracy of name players from the establishment. It's just that the Saints have been more militant than they were supposed to be about building a new franchise. It's created some unpopularity for the newest NFL club, now in its third year. But it has been a successful method. And the complaints tend to get fainter when clubs go to New Orleans and collect their visitors' checks. Attendances average close to 75,000 at the Sugar Bowl. There are older NFL clubs not doing half as well.

The method also has been successful on the field—relatively. The Saints gauge their progress by what the three previous start-from-scratch clubs of the 1960s achieved. New Orleans has done the best. The Saints, comparing their first two seasons, surpassed Dallas (which won a division title after seven years), Minnesota (which won a title after eight years) and Atlanta.

With seven victories in the first two years, Coach Tom Fears now figures seven more in the third year would be substantial progress.

"Our immediate goal is to hit or break .500," said Fears, aware a lot of older, stronger clubs have failed to touch that standard of mediocrity for years.

It seems a realistic goal for the Saints. But it is a goal they are unlikely to reach right now. It could even be a year of regression as some of the old-timers get older. The Saints have a limited quarterback in Bill Kilmer, a patchwork line, two young cornerbacks and retread linebackers.

Kilmer typifies this team. He is resourceful and aggressive at quarterback, a scrambler who transcends his limitations. Once so badly torn apart in an auto wreck it was believed he'd be a lifelong cripple, Kilmer is one of those quarterbacks who defies defenses with his own running ability.

"He has progressed considerably and should continue to improve," says Fears.

It was never expected Kilmer could pass adequately enough to complete 53 percent. But he does. One reason is he has darn good receivers.

"This is our strongest suit," says Fears. The Saints have Dave Parks and Dan Abramowicz catching passes. Parks, of course, is one of the name players pirated away when he played out his option in San Francisco. (The other was Jim Taylor, now retired.) Fears is counting on Parks being healthy again after two years of injury problems. Parks once was the best receiver in the NFL. Unlike so many split ends, he is big and strong enough to advance with a defender on his shoulderpads after catching the ball.

Abramowicz is another example of the Saints' resourcefulness. He was a 17th draft choice the year the club was founded. He has been a regular all along, their best receiver. His forte is the medium pass. At tight end, the Saints will have Monty Stickles, the man the opposing linebackers hate, or young Jim Hester. Fears leans toward Hester, who can run despite his bulk.

The running gets better. Another sharp draft choice was Don McCall, who never got the acclaim of Mike Garrett or O.J. Simpson at Southern Cal. McCall is a third-year man who is adept at changing speeds and cutting. His mate is Tony Lorick, a plugger type with experience. A youngster named Tony Baker could break in. New Orleans lacks real qualified running depth.

The line is made up of one youngster and three castoffs and a question mark. Del Williams, a guard, is the

young player of high promise. The rejects are Jerry Sturm, who had been dropped out of the AFL, Jake Kupp and Joe Wendryhoski. The question is a vacancy at tackle. Don Talbert or Errol Linden, both acquired from Atlanta, will try to fill it. The Saints made guard John Shinnors their first draft choice; he could start immediately.

The defense is headed by towering Doug Atkins, the NFL's antique in his 17th season at age 39. Atkins still is flipping opposing tackles away one-armed and putting on a harrowing pass rush. Running is tough against the Saints. The two tackles, Dave Rowe and Mike Tilleman, go 280. Rowe is a future star, another of the Saints' fine draft picks. Brian Schweda plays an end.

Linebackers are Ted Davis, Fred Whittingham and Johnny Brewer. Each played elsewhere before reaching New Orleans. The linebacking relies more on size than speed. Les Kelley, a converted runner, could step in somewhere this year, especially if Brewer makes good his threat to retire. Also there's Bill Cody, who hits hard.

There has been progress in the defensive backfield—an area where expansion clubs normally lag. "This will be the first year I won't have to start a rookie at one of the corners," notes Fears. John Douglas and Gene Howard now have some experience at a position where it is critical. Elijah Nevett, another youngster, backs them. The potential of the young cornerbacks has permitted Dave Whitsell, the only veteran in the secondary, to remain at strong safety. He has more interceptions during his career than any active NFL player. Bo Burris, another youngster with talent, is the free safety. They're backed by veteran Elbert Kimbrough.

The kicking is decent with field goal man Charlie Durkee and punter Tom McNeill.

The halftime shows will still be spectacular in New Orleans.

1968 RECORD (4-9-1)

SYMBOL

**—Traded

10	Cleveland	24
37	Washington	17
20	St. Louis	21
21	New York	38
20	Minnesota	17
16	Pittsburgh	12
17	St. Louis	31
3	Dallas	17
17	Cleveland	35
7	Green Bay	29
20	Detroit	20
17	Chicago	23
17	Philadelphia	29
24	Pittsburgh	14

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Durkee	0	27	19	84
Abramowicz	7	0	0	42
McCall	6	0	0	36
Lorick	3	0	0	18

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Abramowicz	54	890	7	47	16.4
McCall	26	270	2	25	10.3
Lorick	25	260	3	29	10.4
Parks	25	258	0	41	10.3

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Whitsell	6	50	0	32	8.3
Burris	3	129	1	94	43.0
Howard	3	51	0	35	17.0

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
McNeill	49	2009	58	41.0
South	14	387	44	27.6

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
McCall	155	637	4	48	4.1
Lorick	104	344	0	36	3.3
Schultz	43	152	0	15	3.5
Barrington	45	111	0	22	2.5

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
**Gilliam	15	60	0	21	4.0
Brown	8	60	1	53	7.5
Howard	8	42	0	12	5.3

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Kilmer	315	167	2060	51	15	17	53.2
**Sweetan	78	27	318	42	1	9	34.6
South	38	14	129	19	1	3	36.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Howard	23	533	0	36	23.2
**Gilliam	15	328	0	48	22.1

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Kilmer, Bill	6-0	205	30	8	UCLA
Ninowski, Jim	6-1	207	33	12	Michigan State
South, Ronny	6-1	195	24	2	Arkansas

RUNNING BACKS

McCall, Don	5-11	195	24	3	Southern California
Lorick, Tony	6-1	217	28	6	Arizona State
Barrington, Tom	6-1	213	25	5	Ohio State
Wheelwright, Ernie	6-3	236	29	6	Southern Illinois
Schultz, Randy	6-0	210	25	4	State College of Iowa
Brown, Charlie	5-10	200	23	3	Missouri

RECEIVERS

Parks, Dave (W)	6-2	203	27	6	Texas Tech
Abramowicz, Dan (W)	6-1	197	24	3	Xavier
Stickles, Monty (T)	6-4	235	31	10	Notre Dame
Hester, Jim (T)	6-4	260	24	3	North Dakota
Szymakowski, Dave (W)	6-2	198	23	2	West Texas State
Poage, Ray (W-T)	6-3	215	28	6	Texas

(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Sturm, Jerry (T)	6-3	265	32	9	Illinois
Kupp, Jake (G)	6-3	246	28	6	Washington
Wendryhoski, Joe (C)	6-2	245	31	6	Illinois
Williams, Del (G)	6-2	245	23	2	Florida State
Talbert, Don (T)	6-5	255	29	6	Texas
Linden, Errol (G)	6-5	250	31	9	Houston
McCormick, Dave (T)	6-6	250	26	4	Louisiana State
Kasperek, Dick (C)	6-3	250	26	4	Iowa State
Boeke, Jim (T)	6-5	260	31	10	Heidelberg
Shinners, John (G)	6-3	255	22	1	Xavier

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Durkee, Charlie	5-11	165	25	3	Oklahoma State
McNeill, Tom	6-1	195	27	3	Stephen F. Austin

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Schweda, Brian (E)	6-3	250	26	4	Kansas
Tilleman, Mike (T)	6-6	280	25	4	Montana
Rowe, Dave (T)	6-7	280	24	3	Penn State
Atkins, Doug (E)	6-8	275	39	17	Tennessee
Cordileone, Lou (T)	6-0	255	31	7	Clemson
Neal, Dick (E)	6-3	254	22	1	Southern

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Davis, Ted (O)	6-1	232	27	6	Georgia Tech
Whittingham, Fred (M)	6-2	240	29	5	Cal Poly
Brewer, Johnny (O)	6-4	235	32	9	Mississippi
Stonebreaker, Steve (O)	6-3	235	30	8	Detroit
Cody, Bill (M)	6-1	227	25	4	Auburn
Kelley, Les (O)	6-3	233	24	3	Alabama

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Douglas, John	6-1	195	24	3	Texas Southern
Howard, Gene	6-0	190	22	2	Langston
Nevett, Elijah	6-0	185	25	3	Clark

SAFETIES

Whitsell, Dave (S)	6-0	185	33	12	Indiana
Burris, Bo (W)	6-3	195	24	3	Houston
Kimbrough, Elbert (S-W)	5-11	197	30	8	Northwestern
Hale, Dennis (W-S)	6-1	196	21	1	Minnesota

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Kilmer runs better than he passes and has to scramble too much behind this line. He's a leader in the huddle. Ninowski, from Redskins, is a well-traveled veteran reserve. South green. PERF. QT.: 4.

McCall and Lorick, top two runners, are fine, but depth is limited in era when runners are fortunate to survive a season. McCall has moves, speed and with a better club would be a star. Lorick has power. Barrington is a fine reserve and Wheelwright can be spotted and do well. Schultz, who looks to have considerable promise, and Brown still remain untested. Help needed here. PERF. QT.: 3.

Abramowicz is NFL's best 17th draft choice since Bart Starr, an accomplished receiver with fine hands and knack of getting himself open. Parks has been injured for two years, is still young enough for comeback. Was NFL's receiving champ with clever moves, ability to catch and run after catching. Stickles is powerful, tough tight end. Hester, Poage, Szymakowski give sufficient depth. PERF. QT.: 3.

A source of doubt as blocking could break down any time. This area most needy of building in three-year-old expansion club. Except for highly promising young Williams, blocking protection is provided by retreads unwanted elsewhere. Newest are ex-Falcons Talbert and Linden. Sturm is tough, has savvy, but was well used in AFL before switching leagues. Kupp, Linden and Talbert pass block, run block adequately, no more. Wendryhoski is a fair center. Boeke has been around and has been starter. Kasperek is new from Cards, could move in. McCormick has shot. Bright hope is young Shinners, potentially excellent blocker and sweep leader. PERF. QT.: 4.

Durkee is accurate from medium range and close in, but has trouble with longer kicks. McNeill provides average punts. PERF. QT.: 3

A big, frightening unit, and despite size it doesn't lack in agility. Atkins, oldest NFLer, still flips blockers around with one arm and thrusts height in view of passers. Rowe is one of finer young DTs in league, good against run. Schweda has adequate rush. Tilleman works well against the run. Tackles Rowe and Tilleman go 280 each, which forces running outside. Cordileone, Neal reserves. PERF. QT.: 3.

A lot of experience here, mostly with retreads, though. Like line, linebacking unit is kingsized. This inhibits movement here with starters Davis, Whittingham and Brewer just fair as a unit. Stonebreaker has lots of ability, could become a starter. Cody is tough and also could crack starting unit. Perhaps Kelley has the most promise of all; he rates watching because of agility. PERF. QT.: 4.

Young cornerbacks are prone to error, and Saints are extremely young. Douglas and Howard help make up for inexperience with speedy recoveries as does backup Nevett. PERF. QT.: 4.

There is some depth here and Whitsell could return to corner, where he was top interceptor in '67. Or Kimbrough could also switch to a corner. Both have experience and do job. Burris with fine instincts, looks to be comer. Hale must learn. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL WEST/COASTAL DIVISION

BALTIMORE COLTS

Prediction: First

Carroll Rosenbloom, the owner, can think of little other than avenging the Colts' honor. Don Shula, the coach, thinks often of frustrations and it is painful. Johnny Unitas, the quarterback again, talks of a repaired arm and it is not painful.

The Colts, until Jan. 12 of this year, were the best team in all of pro football. On Jan. 13, they might have been the best again, and they probably were. But Jan. 13 was a Monday and there will be no Monday pro football until 1970. Only Super Sunday mattered.

Can the Colts win the NFL championship again and steal off to the AFL—or American Conference, next year—with this prestigious honor? They can, and they probably will.

Just the possibility that they won't was reason enough for Rosenbloom to agree to remove his franchise to the AFL. He wants at the Jets again; he wants the Colts to redeem themselves for the galling Super Bowl loss more than he wants to beat the Rams, and Packers, and Cowboys. He wants a guaranteed rematch with the Jets, something he won't have even if his team wins the NFL title this year.

The Super Bowl pain lingers and has to affect anything the Colts attempt this fall. "All I can think of is revenge...vindication," Rosenbloom said in the days of agony right after the Super Bowl.

But first the business at hand, a lame duck season in the old NFL. It was there the Colts' aching frustrations started—a champion game loss in 64, a playoff loss in 65, a divisional title loss by scoring formula in 67, finally a league championship win in 68—but then the Super Bowl on Jan. 12, 1969.

Unitas is back now, his elbow rested and treated. This makes for a decision unique in sports. Only Shula can bench last year's NFL Player of the Year, the quarterback who won a record 15 games and the league championship. But that is Earl Morrall's destiny, to

return to the bench to watch Unitas. Oh, they can share the work in training camp, because Morrall, at least, earned a chance. But a healthy Unitas would win any NFL quarterback battle. Shula, who has seen Unitas injured too often, speaks with some pessimism, however.

"We have two major concerns going into the 1969 season," said the young coach. "No. 1 is the defense. We must strive for it to be as good or better than last year. Second is Unitas' condition. We don't know if his elbow will completely recover and if he can regain the form of 1967 or whether he'll be continually bothered by some type of arm problem."

Johnny U. says his coach need not fret. The arm's all better, says Unitas, now 36 and at the dangerous age.

The concern about defense is warranted. Baltimore shut out four opponents, including Cleveland in the NFL championship game. But this brutal, complex defense was found to have flaws in the Super Bowl.

Most importantly, the right side of the defense needs shoring up. Ordell Braase, the right end, has retired and Roy Hilton starts the season there. Whether Hilton can do it is questionable. Presumably he can and will get help from an otherwise exceptional line of Bubba and Billy Ray Smith and Fred Miller. If he can't, 1968's top draft, John Williams, gets a chance to fill the vacancy.

Don Shinnick's job at right linebacker is in jeopardy. Joe Namath discovered a soft spot in Braase and then found one behind him. Ron Porter, rushed in during the Super emergency, could start in place of Shinnick. Farther back, right cornerback Lenny Lyles also was proved vulnerable. It is unlikely Lyles will be forced out, but NFL quarterbacks took notice.

On the left corner, bald Bobby Boyd retired to take a position on Shula's staff. Charlie Stukes, a comer,

or young Ocie Austin get the opportunity to replace Boyd. But Boyd is close by and unretirements merely require paperwork.

The rest of the defense is superb. Safeties Jerry Logan and Rick Volk are unmatched as a pair in either league. Mike Curtis, the left linebacker, has become a terrorizer of quarterbacks with his frenzied blitzing tactics. Dennis Gaubatz is a middlin' middle linebacker in charge of a most complex defense. This should be Bubba Smith's year to destroy the myth that he is a myth, despite his Super Bowl embarrassment.

Offensively, Unitas figures to improve what last year was a terrific attack with Morrall in command. The Colts' receiving was amiss in the Super Bowl and if a couple of passes had been caught...well, that's sour grapes. But John Mackey, the best tight end in the world, doesn't drop many. Jimmy Orr is always open and usually the quarterback spots him. Willie Richardson blazes and outjumps most defenders. Then there's Tom Mitchell, who becomes the second tight end in sight of the goal line.

The running still does not equal the rest of the offense. Tom Matte gains and plugs and catches passes and scores touchdowns. Jerry Hill's forte is pass blocking. The Colts like Terry Cole, who could be a starter now. He's strong, and quick starting. Speedy Preston Pearson, who makes kickoff returns so exciting, will be employed as a part-time runner. But he's smallish and can be used only sparingly. Timmy Brown may have another year. Eddie Hinton, the first draft choice, goes to camp due for trials both as runner and flanker.

Unitas and Morrall receive as fine protection as any quarterback. The veteran line of Bob Vogel, Glenn Resler, Bill Curry, Dan Sullivan and Sam Ball is excellent.

Kicking has deteriorated some. Lou Michaels was troubled in the

Cont. on Page 101

1968 RECORD (15-2)

SYMBOLS

†—League leader

*—Retired

27	San Francisco	10
28	Atlanta	20
41	Pittsburgh	7
28	Chicago	7
42	San Francisco	14
20	Cleveland	30
27	Los Angeles	10
26	New York	0
27	Detroit	10
27	St. Louis	0
21	Minnesota	9
44	Atlanta	0
16	Green Bay	3
28	Los Angeles	24
24	Minnesota	14
	(Western Title)	
34	Cleveland	0
	(NFL Title)	
7	New York Jets	16
	(Super Bowl)	

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Michaels	0	48	18	102
Matte	10	0	0	60
Richardson	8	0	0	48
Orr	6	0	0	36

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Morrall	317	182	2909	84	26†	17	57.4
Unitas	32	11	139	37	2	4	34.4

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Mackey	45	644	5	45	14.3
Richardson	37	698	8	79	18.9
Orr	29	743	6	84	25.6
Matte	25	275	1	50	11.0

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
*Boyd	8	160	1	49	20.0
Volk	6	154	0	90	25.7
Lyles	5	32	0	11	6.4

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Lee	49	1833	59	39.4

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Matte	183	662	9	23	3.6
Cole	104	418	3	21	4.0
Hill	91	360	1	21	4.0
Brown	39	159	2	10	4.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Volk	25	198	0	24	7.9
Brown	16	125	0	25	7.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Pearson	15	527	2†	102†	35.1†
Brown	15	298	0	29	19.9

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Unitas, Johnny	6-1	196	36	14	Louisville
Morrall, Earl	6-2	206	35	14	Michigan State
Ward, Jim	6-2	195	25	3	Gettysburg

RUNNING BACKS

Matte, Tom	6-0	214	30	9	Ohio State
Hill, Jerry	5-11	215	29	8	Wyoming
Cole, Terry	6-1	220	24	2	Indiana
Pearson, Preston	6-1	190	23	3	Illinois
Brown, Timmy	5-11	198	32	11	Ball State
Stewart, Jack	6-2	222	22	1	Texas Tech

RECEIVERS

Orr, Jimmy (W)	5-11	185	33	12	Georgia
Richardson, Willie (W)	6-2	198	29	7	Jackson State
Mackey, John (T)	6-2	224	27	7	Syracuse
Perkins, Ray (W)	6-0	183	27	3	Alabama
Alley, Don (W)	6-2	200	24	2	Adams State
Mitchell, Tom (T)	6-2	215	25	2	Bucknell
Hinton, Eddie (W)	6-0	200	22	1	Oklahoma

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Vogel, Bob (T)	6-5	250	27	7	Ohio State
Ressler, Glenn (G)	6-3	250	26	5	Penn State
Curry, Bill (C)	6-2	235	26	5	Georgia Tech
Sullivan, Dan (G)	6-3	250	30	8	Boston College
Ball, Sam (T)	6-4	240	25	4	Kentucky
Johnson, Cornelius (G)	6-2	245	26	2	Virginia Union
Grimm, Dan (G)	6-3	245	28	7	Colorado
Nelson, Dennis (T)	6-5	260	23	1	Illinois State

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Michaels, Lou	6-2	250	32	12	Kentucky
Lee, David	6-4	230	25	4	Louisiana Tech

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Smith, Bubba (E)	6-7	295	24	3	Michigan State
Smith, Billy Ray (T)	6-4	250	34	11	Arkansas
Miller, Fred (T)	6-3	250	29	7	Louisiana State
Hilton, Roy (E)	6-6	240	26	5	Jackson State
Williams, John (E)	6-3	256	23	2	Minnesota
Dunlap, King (T)	6-6	260	21	1	Tennessee State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Curtis, Mike (O)	6-2	232	25	5	Duke
Gaubatz, Dennis (M)	6-2	232	29	7	Louisiana State
Shinnick, Don (O)	6-0	228	34	13	UCLA
Grant, Bob (O)	6-2	225	22	2	Wake Forest
Porter, Ron (M)	6-3	232	24	3	Idaho
Hendricks, Ted (O)	6-7	215	21	1	Miami
Williams, Sid (O)	6-2	235	27	6	Southern

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Stukes, Charlie	6-3	212	26	3	Maryland State
Lyles, Lenny	6-2	204	33	12	Louisville
Austin, Ocie	6-3	200	22	2	Utah State

SAFETIES

Logan, Jerry (S)	6-1	190	28	7	West Texas State
Volk, Rick (W)	6-3	195	24	3	Michigan
Maxwell, Tommy (W-S)	6-2	195	22	1	Texas A&M

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

So much depends on Unitas' golden arm. Job is his if elbow is healed. When fit, he's still finest QB in NFL. Morrall reverts to backup, best in the business. Ward learning. PERF. QT.: 1.

Running has not been Colts' strength despite Matte's super performance in championship game. Matte and Hill are dangerous in short bursts, but they lack breakaway speed. Hill can block as well as any back; he adds to great pass protection. Matte adds to receiving threat. Cole and Pearson are younger and faster. Cole could be excellent. Brown now must be spotted. Stewart underpublicized, has promise. PERF. QT.: 4.

As unit, one of best in NFL, with men who can get open and then move with football. Orr is aging and lacks great speed, but has great moves. Richardson has ability to out-jump defenders and has speed and hands. Mackey is finest tight end in football, runs like a fullback with flanker speed after he has the ball. Perkins has been slow in reaching potential. Mitchell, who could start on other clubs, is used for close-in touchdown plays. Hinton should stick. Alley is depth. PERF. QT.: 2.

This unit is unsung strength of Colts because of protection it gives quarterbacks and holes it opens for not-too-fast runners. The group is intact from championship season. Vogel is All-Pro; Ressler, Curry, Sullivan and Ball as a group are close to best in NFL. They have age in their favor, with Sullivan only member at 30. Ball ready to reach great potential, Ressler just reached it. Backups Johnson and well-traveled Grimm have experience. High rookie draftee Nelson has tremendous size and poise and should contribute. PERF. QT.: 1.

Michaels is reliable and has excellent range. Holding could be problem with Bob Boyd retired. Lee in top punting echelon. PERF. QT.: 3.

Invincibility is gone from front four since Super Bowl, but still it is extremely effective. Ordell Braase, retired from right end, is replaced by Hilton. Bubba now has experience to do what long has been expected. Should climb into the Deacon Jones-Carl Eller category. Billy Ray and Miller are agile and good co-workers. Williams moves from offense and Dunlap has size. Both have to learn. PERF. QT.: 2.

Curtis, an All-Pro with great speed and toughness, is murderous on the blitz. He plays with a special zeal that heightens his abilities. Gaubatz has some range and some speed, ranking in middle echelon of NFL's middle backers. He's mastered the defensive system and utilizes it well. Shinnick has been slowed by age; Porter or Grant could replace him on starting unit. Both have high promise. Williams is a journeyman. Hendricks acclaimed but has matchstick build. PERF. QT.: 2.

Trouble brewing here with Bob Boyd retired to coaching staff and Lyles exposed in Super Bowl. Stukes supposedly has great promise, quickness, daring, agility. Austin also has fine potential. PERF. QT.: 4.

Logan and Volk are probably best safety pair in NFL. Logan never All-Pro, but coaches say he belongs. He tackles and defends well. Volk has range, roughness, speed. Maxwell has to learn. PERF. QT.: 1.

NFL WEST/COASTAL DIVISION

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Prediction: Second

His coaching rivals regard him as a con man, an operator. The Rams' George Allen certainly is not the most popular of NFL coaches among his contemporaries. He is not especially popular with his owner, Dan Reeves, who tried to fire him and was forced to retreat.

But George Allen is effective and in four years he has rebuilt what had become a decadent, troubled franchise. The Rams keep adding and changing and improving.

Allen is a trader, a cajoler, a taskmaster, a smoothie, a trickster—yes, a con man. He has to be a con man to pull off some of the great trading heists of all time. This was how he revived the Rams, with players disenchanted and in disrepute elsewhere.

A Bob Brown is unhappy in Philadelphia. So George Allen makes a transcontinental phone call and Bob Brown belongs to the Rams. The Rams get the best blocking tackle in captivity for three nondescript athletes. A Richie Petitbon is dissatisfied in Chicago and had played out his option. So Allen makes another phone call and Petitbon becomes a Ram. The price is a couple of draft choices and a journeyman cornerback who had been picked up as a free agent.

Then he calls back to Philadelphia and picks up another unhappy Eagle, runner Izzy Lang, for some more fodder. The same week he calls again and gets linebacker Jim Purnell.

So now the Rams' line is better with Brown and their pass defense is better with Petitbon and their running is stronger with Lang and their line-backing is deeper with Purnell.

But Allen was even slicker this year. His habit had been to trade away draft choices for experience. He preferred veterans; only exceptional rookies could make his clubs. This method produced instant success when Allen left Chicago to become a head coach in California.

This year Allen not only traded

well for old players, he was astute enough to stockpile three first round draft choices. So the Rams have added three actual or near All-Americans—receiver Jim Seymour, runner Larry Smith and tight end Bob Klein. None is likely to be a starter; rookies are supposed to be quiet, watch and learn, says Allen.

But examine the club which could well win the Rams' first championship since 1951. Eight of the 22 regulars have been acquired in Allen's trades. They are Brown, Pat Studstill and Tommy Mason on offense; Roger Brown, Myron Pottios, Maxie Baughan, Ron Smith and Petitbon on defense. Bernie Casey would be added to this list if he returns to receive, in preference to movie acting, painting and writing.

Despite all the deals, it is home-grown Roman Gabriel who is again the key to the Rams this year.

Gabe, at 6-4 and 220, was great when the Coastal title was won two years ago, but plain ordinary on too many Sundays last year. He has most of the tools—ability to pass both long and short, strength to stand up under blitzers, running strength. He is sometimes deliberate with his release, but can afford to be with his strength.

"I wouldn't trade Gabe for any quarterback in football," Allen says. "He's young at 27, as proven as the older quarterbacks. What pleased me most was the solid leadership and mental toughness he demonstrated last year."

There goes George Allen again. The Rams' roster lists Gabriel at 29.

Two years ago the Rams had an ideal situation. They scored the most points in the NFL and yielded the least. Last year the scoring decreased. It has to pick up this year for the Rams to win in the Coastal Division. The defense remains as stingy and nasty as ever.

Gabriel must produce the points, and that could be a problem.

The running is deep but not durable. Not one returning Ram runner

appeared in 14 games last year. Les Josephson tries a comeback after missing the entire season because of a torn Achilles tendon, an injury that sometimes prevents return to 100 percent efficiency. Dick Bass had nagging injuries and Mason has chronic knee troubles. Willie Ellison goes into 1969 as the Rams' top runner. He is not a superstar. Lang, powerful and durable, eventually could become a starter, although he was acquired for depth. Smith might force Allen to break his pledge not to use rookies.

The receiving is not exceptional. Casey's return would help. Jack Snow returns after a mediocre season and should be better. Studstill will be the other wide receiver if Casey doesn't show. Pat has moves and makes acrobatic catches, but has yet to recapture the flair he showed before injuring a leg two years ago in Detroit. Billy Truax, the tight end, is strong and holds onto Gabe's short bullets. Claudi James gives depth.

Three of the returning linemen played in the Pro Bowl—Tom Mack, Charlie Cowan and Joe Scibelli. Add Brown to this group and it potentially is the best offensive line since Green Bay's early title days. Ken Iman is the center, supposedly underrated. Mack this year could become an All-Pro guard. Cowan, with the advent of the giant Brown, will move from right to left tackle.

And the defense? That unit, led by the Fearsome Foursome, enters 1969 with the reputation of permitting the fewest yards in the league. The Foursome will have Lamar Lundy back at right end. Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen and Roger Brown managed while Lundy's knee was healing. They led the league in collapsing quarterbacks. Jones is the best pass rusher in this grisly business. And Allen has some more ideas, like using five linemen with Jones crunching people from middle guard. Gregg Schumacher would be the No. 5 lineman.

Cont. on Page 101

1968 RECORD (10-3-1)

SYMBOLS

*—Retired
†—League leader

24	St. Louis	13
45	Pittsburgh	10
24	Cleveland	6
24	San Francisco	10
16	Green Bay	14
27	Atlanta	14
10	Baltimore	27
10	Detroit	7
17	Atlanta	10
20	San Francisco	20
24	New York	21
31	Minnesota	3
16	Chicago	17
24	Baltimore	28

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Gossett	0	37	17	88
Ellison	7	0	0	42
*Casey	5	0	0	30
Tucker	4	0	0	24
Gabriel	4	0	0	24

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Truax	35	417	3	22	11.9
*Casey	29	565	5	55	19.5
Snow	29	500	3	54	17.2
Bass	27	195	2	28	7.2

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Williams	7	51	0	36	7.3
Meador	6	37	0	20	6.2
Baughan	4	29	0	16	7.3

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Studstill	81†	3207	58	39.6

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Ellison	151	616	5	52	4.1
Bass	121	494	1	20	4.1
Mason	108	395	3	19	3.7
Gabriel	34	139	4	19	4.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Smith	27	171	0	24	6.3
Meador	17	136	0	40	8.0

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Gabriel	366	184	2364	60	19	16	50.3
Plum	12	5	49	25	1	1	41.7

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Smith	26	718	1	94	27.6
Ellison	12	268	0	40	22.3

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Gabriel, Roman	6-4	220	29	8	North Carolina State
Plum, Milt	6-2	205	34	13	Penn State
Sweetan, Karl	6-1	200	26	4	Wake Forest

RUNNING BACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Bass, Dick	5-10	195	32	10	Pacific
Ellison, Willie	6-1	200	23	3	Texas Southern
Mason, Tommy	6-1	195	30	9	Tulane
Josephson, Les	6-0	207	27	5	Augustana
Lang, Izzy	6-1	232	27	6	Tennessee State
Dennis, Mike	6-1	207	25	2	Mississippi
Ezerins, Vilnis	6-1	217	25	2	Whitewater State
Smith, Larry	6-3	220	21	1	Florida

RECEIVERS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Snow, Jack (W)	6-2	190	26	5	Notre Dame
Studstill, Pat (W)	6-0	175	31	8	Houston
Truax, Billy (T)	6-5	235	26	6	Louisiana State
Tucker, Wendell (W)	5-10	185	26	3	South Carolina State
Pivec, Dave (T)	6-3	230	26	4	Notre Dame
James, Claudis (W)	6-2	190	25	3	Jackson State
Seymour, Jim (W)	6-4	210	22	1	Notre Dame
Klein, Bob (T)	6-5	235	21	1	Southern California

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Cowan, Charlie (T)	6-4	265	31	9	New Mexico Highlands
Mack, Tom (G)	6-3	250	25	4	Michigan
Iman, Ken (C)	6-1	240	30	9	Southeast Missouri
Scibelli, Joe (G)	6-0	255	30	9	Notre Dame
Brown, Bob (T)	6-4	275	27	6	Nebraska
Burman, George (G-C)	6-3	255	26	4	Northwestern
Marchlewski, Frank (C)	6-2	240	25	5	Minnesota
Wilson, Jim (T)	6-3	258	27	5	Georgia

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKER

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Gossett, Bruce	6-2	230	27	6	Richmond

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jones, David (E)	6-5	250	30	9	South Carolina State
Olsen, Merlin (T)	6-5	270	29	8	Utah State
Brown, Roger (T)	6-5	285	32	10	Maryland State
Lundy, Lamar (E)	6-7	250	34	13	Purdue
Schumacher, Gregg (E)	6-2	240	27	3	Illinois
Bacon, Coy (E)	6-4	270	26	2	Jackson State
Talbert, Diron (T)	6-5	245	25	3	Texas
Cahill, Dave (T)	6-3	245	27	3	Northern Arizona

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Pardee, Jack (O)	6-2	225	33	12	Texas A&M
Pottios, Myron (M)	6-2	232	30	9	Notre Dame
Baughan, Maxie (O)	6-1	230	30	10	Georgia Tech
Purnell, Jim (O)	6-2	238	27	6	Wisconsin
Woodlief, Doug (M-O)	6-3	225	26	5	Memphis State
Absher, Dick (O)	6-4	235	25	3	Maryland

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Williams, Clancy	6-2	194	27	5	Washington State
Smith, Ron	6-1	192	26	5	Wisconsin
Nettles, Jim	5-10	177	27	5	Wisconsin
Daniel, Willie	5-11	190	31	9	Mississippi State

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Meador, Eddie (W)	5-11	190	32	11	Arkansas State
Petitbon, Richie (S)	6-3	208	31	11	Tulane
Crabb, Claude (W-S)	6-0	192	29	8	Colorado

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free Safety"

Performance Quotients

Gabriel is biggest pro QB, which is advantage. Had great year two seasons ago, ordinary last year. Plum reliable veteran backup. Sweetan can throw the ball but is undependable. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is fragile group with Bass, Mason, Josephson and Smith all injured in past year. Bass smallish fullback, but with quickness and maneuverability. Mason's knees require him to be used carefully, but he can break away despite handicaps. Josephson remains doubtful because Achilles' injuries sometimes don't heal. Lang, another trade coup, could start. Ellison has speed and breakaway ability and performed well in first chance. Smith could violate Allen's non-rookie credo and play. Dennis and Ezerins fighting for job. PERF. QT.: 3.

If Bernie Casey remains retired, this would handicap Rams' air game. Studstill would replace actor-artist Casey. Pat is dangerous deep receiver, excellent moves and hands but has chronic leg trouble. Snow coming off sub-par season; if happy he's a good catcher. Truax rates as one of better tight ends, blocking and receiving. Tucker showed well with chance and might challenge Studstill. Rookie Seymour eventually will get job, but with George Allen rookies watch from bench. Same with Klein. Pivec provides depth. James adds speed. PERF. QT.: 3.

Addition of Bob Brown strengthens already formidable and veteran unit. Brown regarded as best offensive lineman in pros—massive and able. Cowan must move over to left to accommodate him, but transition won't be that tough. Mack and Scibelli are outstanding guard pair. Mack has great speed to lead sweeps, could develop into All-Pro. Iman is a fine center, picks off blitz well. Rams also have excellent blocking depth with experienced Burman, Marchlewski and Wilson. Unit gives Roman Gabriel the protection he needs. PERF. QT.: 1.

Gossett a clutch kicker. Studstill fair punter. PERF. QT.: 3.

Fearsome Foursome is just that, best pass rushing line in captivity. Jones is unequaled in shedding blocks and terrorizing quarterback. Olsen is menacing against the run. Brown pass rushes better than most DTs and has unusual pursuit for his size. Lundy quick and uses height to advantage. He has talked retirement and returns from bad injury. If he needs replacing, line would lose some effectiveness. Schumacher and Bacon are good reserves, but neither has experience to start regularly. Talbert and Cahill add to general team depth. PERF. QT.: 1.

With great rush up front, Rams' backers don't blitz much and can lay back and assist pass coverage. Pardee and Baughan both are excellent on interceptions, Pardee having two for two TDs in '68. Baughan has excellent range and is good leader. Pottios fits in well in middle—not heroic but efficient. Purnell and Woodlief provide excellent backup strength. Absher has tough job sticking with new club. PERF. QT.: 2.

Much-moved Smith gets shot at replacing traded Irv Cross on the vacant right side. Smith was safety last year and did well. Williams has outstanding speed, but he's not among top cornerbacks. Nettles, new to club, might help. Journeyman Daniel on special teams. PERF. QT.: 4.

Improved tremendously with addition of Petitbon on strong side. He's happy again and knew Allen's system in Chicago. Meador one of better weak-siders, has quickness, leadership traits. Crabb OK. PERF. QT.: 2.

NFL WEST/COASTAL DIVISION

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Prediction: Third

Of all the sports teams that have glutted the San Francisco Bay region, the 49ers are the oldest. These pioneers have been in business since 1946. Yet they have not won so much as a divisional title. Many of the later-comers have. For this reason, the 49ers no longer are dear to those who attend football at Kezar Stadium, a few beads-lengths from the epicenter of the Hippy movement.

The 49ers have been surpassed in their own area in their own sport by the more artistically successful Oakland Raiders. The NFLers are now withdrawn annually.

The franchise had started to stagnate until a bright young coach named Dick Nolan was hired. Now in his second season, Nolan has a better club. For the first time in many years, there is some stability to the 49ers entering a campaign. There are prize rookies, fine runners, a veteran and trusted passer, a receiving champion—and most of all an improved defense, which was the old weakness.

Still, it is sad to say, the 49ers will fail for the 24th successive autumn to win a divisional title. This remains a team that will hover near the .500 mark, simply because it has the misfortune to compete in the Coastal Division. Take the 49ers into the Century or Central and they would be a genuine contender.

Nolan has a rather pat ball club. John Brodie, the millionaire quarterback, does not have to fight for his job this time. George Mira is to be No. 2 or traded away finally. Brodie runs a highly productive offensive that includes Ken Willard, last year's No. 2 NFL runner, and Clifton McNeil, the reigning pro pass catching champion.

Despite all the impressive statistics Brodie has accumulated during his career, his teams seldom have had winning seasons. Last year, by one game, was an exception. There are times when he can be blitzed into distraction and frustration. There are other times

when the remaining boobbirds at Kezar tear into him without compassion.

Yet Brodie cannot really be faulted for everything in San Francisco. Other quarterbacks, some with more ability, have never won championships or titles either. Brodie could win if he had the right supporting cast. Y.A. Tittle, who predated Brodie in San Francisco, had the same problems. He won when traded to a better club in New York.

Nolan is gradually assembling a team to work with Brodie.

McNeil was the chief new improvement last year. Exciting and dangerous, McNeil rose off Cleveland's bench to play in San Francisco. His 71 catches were the most of any pro receiver. He showed he could get open and pull away from the fleetest cornerbacks.

So good was McNeil that the 49ers must do something now to exploit the coverages he will be confronted with this year. McNeil will be guarded closely by two and sometimes three men. The other returning receivers—Dick Witcher, Kay McFarland and Bob Windsor—do not present any awesome threat.

Aware of this, Nolan went into the draft and claimed receivers on the first two rounds. First he took Ted Kwalick, a sure star someday and probable starter as a rookie at tight end. Next he took Gene Washington, who has the speed to be McNeil's foil on the outside. If the plan works, the defenses will have to loosen up on McNeil and the 49ers can explode.

Few clubs can balance their running and passing as well as San Francisco. Willard is about the best power back in the NFL, a steady gainer. His presence makes the draw play a potential weapon always. Nolan likes Gary Lewis, who joined Willard last year in a continuance of the 49ers' big back system. Lewis outweighs Willard and also outspeeds him. Shifted to halfback, Lewis is able to run outside. He was the successor to John David Crow,

who went to tight end last year and, into retirement this year.

The line, too, is rather good—especially Howard Mudd, the right guard. Mudd is a possible All-Pro. Len Rhode, Elmer Collett, old-timer Bruce Bosley and very promising Cas Banaszek comprise the rest of the line. It has depth, too, with youngsters Forrest Blue and Lance Olssen, Woody Peoples and veteran John Thomas, who tries to come back off a devastating injury suffered in 1967. Thomas missed all of the '68 campaign, and his return would have to be counted as a bonus by Nolan. Even without his services, however, the 49ers are well stocked in the line, with a fine blend of heady veterans and ambitious young men behind them.

Offensive punch, though, has been a club trait for years. Now there is some defense, too. It was pitiful for years. But end Stan Hindman has blossomed as a pass rusher and young Bill Belk looked so good as a rookie that Clark Miller could be traded. Tackles Roland Lakes and Charlie Krueger remain, with Kevin Hardy (who can also play end) pushing them for a steady job. Dave Wilcox is a highly respected outside linebacker playing in a unit with Ed Beard and Frank Nunley, successor to retired Matt Hazeltine. The secondary also has been tightened through the improving pass defense of cornerbacks Jim Johnson and Kermit Alexander. Safeties are Al Randolph and Mel Phillips. Alexander doubles effectively on returns.

Tommy Davis is back to do the placekicking, still one of the better specialists at this important phase of the pro game.

It's a shame about the 49ers. This is a pretty well-rounded football team now. Except that there are two better teams in the division and one better one across the Bay in the same drawing area. So it will be another fall of suffering in San Francisco.

1968 RECORD (7-6-1)

10	Baltimore	27
35	St. Louis	17
28	Atlanta	13
10	Los Angeles	24
14	Baltimore	42
26	New York	10
14	Detroit	7
21	Cleveland	33
19	Chicago	27
20	Los Angeles	20
45	Pittsburgh	28
27	Green Bay	20
20	Minnesota	30
14	Atlanta	12

SYMBOLS

*—Retired
†—League leader

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Davis	0	26	9	53
McNeil	7	0	0	42
Tucker	7	0	0	42
Willard	7	0	0	42

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
McNeil	711	994	7	65	14.0
Witcher	39	531	1	59	13.6
Willard	36	232	0	20	6.4
*Crow	31	531	5	54	17.1

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Alexander	9	155	1	66	17.2
Randolph	4	60	0	40	15.0
Beard	2	93	0	69	46.5
Fuller	2	3	0	3	1.5

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Spurrier	68	2650	54	39.0

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Willard	227	967	7	69	4.2
Lewis	141	573	1	22	4.0
Tucker	30	135	3	18	4.5
Brodie	18	71	0	15	4.0

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Alexander	24	87	0	26	3.6
Fuller	12	33	0	9	2.7

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Brodie	404	234	3020	65	22	21	57.8
Mira	11	4	44	43	1	1	36.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Alexander	20	360	0	35	18.1
Cunningham	14	286	0	39	20.4

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Brodie, John	6-1	204	34	13	Stanford
Mira, George	5-11	190	27	6	Miami
Spurrier, Steve	6-2	203	24	3	Florida
RUNNING BACKS					
Willard, Ken	6-2	225	25	5	North Carolina
Lewis, Gary	6-2	230	27	6	Arizona State
Tucker, Bill	6-2	226	26	3	Tennessee State
Cunningham, Doug	6-0	193	23	3	Mississippi
Daniels, Clem	6-1	218	32	10	Prairie View
Moore, Gene	6-1	200	21	1	Occidental
Thomas, Jimmy	6-1	216	22	1	Texas-Arlington
RECEIVERS					
McNeil, Clifton (W)	6-2	185	29	6	Grambling
Witcher, Dick (W)	6-3	204	25	4	UCLA
Windsor, Bob (T)	6-4	229	24	3	Kentucky
Kwalick, Ted (T)	6-4	230	21	1	Penn State
McFarland, Kay (W)	6-2	190	31	8	Colorado State
Washington, Gene (W)	6-1	186	21	1	Stanford
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Rohde, Len (T)	6-4	253	31	10	Utah State
Collett, Elmer (G)	6-4	244	24	3	San Francisco State
Bosley, Bruce (C)	6-2	240	35	14	West Virginia
Mudd, Howard (G)	6-2	252	27	6	Hillsdale
Banaszek, Cas (T)	6-3	240	23	2	Northwestern
Olssen, Lance (T)	6-5	267	22	2	Purdue
Peoples, Woody (G)	6-2	247	26	2	Grambling
Thomas, John (G)	6-4	256	34	11	Pacific
Blue, Forrest (C)	6-5	248	23	2	Auburn
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKERS					
Davis, Tommy	6-0	225	34	11	Louisiana State
Patera, Dennis	6-0	214	23	2	Brigham Young

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Hindman, Stan (E)	6-3	237	24	4	Mississippi
Krueger, Charlie (T)	6-4	270	32	11	Texas A&M
Lakes, Roland (T)	6-4	265	29	9	Wichita
Belk, Bill (E)	6-3	242	23	2	Maryland
Hardy, Kevin (E-T)	6-5	287	24	2	Notre Dame
Holzer, Tom (E)	6-4	248	24	2	Louisville
Edwards, Earl (T)	6-6	276	23	1	Wichita
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
Wilcox, Dave (O)	6-2	237	26	6	Oregon
Beard, Ed (M)	6-1	219	29	5	Tennessee
Nunley, Frank (O-M)	6-2	233	24	3	Michigan
Olerich, Dave (O-M)	6-1	220	23	3	San Francisco
Hart, Tommy (O)	6-3	235	24	2	Morris Brown
Sniadecki, Jim (O-M)	6-2	220	21	1	Indiana
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Johnson, Jim	6-2	187	31	9	UCLA
Alexander, Kermit	5-11	186	28	7	UCLA
Rose, George	5-11	190	27	5	Auburn
SAFETIES					
Randolph, Alvin (S)	6-2	204	25	4	Iowa
Phillips, Mel (W)	6-2	192	25	4	North Carolina A&T
Fuller, Johnny (W-S)	6-0	175	23	2	Lamar Tech
Woitt, Johnny (W-S)	5-11	171	22	2	Mississippi State
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

Brodie has been champion passer with great arm, leadership quality, but has stigma of never being a winner. Mira has winning trait, but can't win job. Spurrier seldom gets chance. PERF. QT.: 3.

Willard and Lewis are fine tandem, but lack speed for outside attack. Most of their yardage is made through guards, and opposition defenses bunch. Willard is indestructible runner, makes key yardage and can be used well on swing and flare passes. Lewis is more explosive, but erratic. Tucker has TD knack. Cunningham has the most speed, but he's light and doesn't blend into attack. Daniels has savvy and can be used reliably in spots. Moore and Thomas should be taxed. PERF. QT.: 3.

49ers must be wary of doubling and tripling of McNeil, now that he's top receiver in league. He showed he can run, catch and score in his first real shot. But he's club's lone long-catching threat. Witcher could become satisfactory accomplice, though Washington might get a chance. Kwalick should be pro star when he's over rookie habits. Windsor and McFarland supply fine depth. PERF. QT.: 3.

Long regarded as one of better pass protecting lines with especially outstanding guard play from Mudd. Shows some age with Bosley, a top center, and Rohde, an efficient tackle. Collett progressing and Banaszek could be a top blocking tackle now. There have been times when blitz turned line into sieve. Mudd about best guard in business with pass protection and hole-opening abilities. Blue has potential, can play center and guard. Thomas doubtful because of past injury. When fit he was one of best. Olssen has tremendous size, but he's green on pass protection. Peoples fighting for backup job. PERF. QT.: 2.

Davis is a strong-legged veteran who is fine under pressure. Spurrier punts—high but short. Patera will be taxed. PERF. QT.: 3.

Rush has been improving last two years, primarily because of Hindman's development. He still has improving to do against the run. Krueger and Lakes have size and experience, but never have been top rated tacklers. Young Belk is a comer; he did outstanding job after Clark Miller was hurt, both as rusher and tackler, so Miller could be traded. Hardy has the press notices and potential, and should contend for steady job. Holzer and Edwards give depth. PERF. QT.: 4.

Wilcox is standout in ordinary group. He has range, speed and tendency to make key plays. Beard has ordinary talents but runs defense adequately. Nunley can be reckless, loves to hit, has quickness. He can rove when defense uses four backers. Depth could be a 49er problem. Olerich and Hart have scant experience and Hart might work in at defensive end. Sniadecki comes with good reports. PERF. QT.: 4.

Johnson and Alexander have developed into a workable defending duo, but like other defenders, they have problems against the run. Alexander is especially adept at intercepts. Rose is a journeyman. PERF. QT.: 3.

Here again there are the weaknesses which cause the 49ers to give up more points than the offense can score. Randolph is better than average strong safety, good against passes. Phillips has range. Fuller played a lot as a rookie and showed promise. Woitt is fair. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL WEST/COASTAL DIVISION

ATLANTA FALCONS

Prediction: Fourth

By now the Falcons should resemble a professional football team. This is their fourth year, and they really ought to be competitive. They do not resemble a football team. The state of affairs in Atlanta is:

"This year we'll be starting anew," says Norm Van Brocklin, who became head coach after last season had begun. "Jobs are wide open on the whole ball club."

Thus, the Falcons remain fledglings at a time they should be full grown. Four years have done little other than take the novelty of pro football away from the people of Atlanta. They're skeptics now, cynics, and they've learned the traits of their fellows in more traditional pro bastions. They boo inadequacies and therefore, the Falcons are booed.

The Falcons' deep troubles stem basically from the draft. They started with the usual expansion core of rejects and did well by signing Tommy Nobis. But in their second year, the draft was a complete failure. The Falcons continue to suffer because they added nothing in that draft, players who would now be young veterans.

Last year was better and this year was the best. Under the whip of the Dutchman, the Falcons should start, at least, to resemble a football team.

Van Brocklin is beginning by constructing an offensive line. George Kunz was the top draft choice and should be a starter right away at tackle. Poor George won't be able to do it by himself, but as the Dutchman says, the Falcons must start anew.

"We look for the greatest single improvement in our offensive club in the line," says Van Brocklin. "We absolutely must have better line play..."

The reason is precisely this: The Falcons' quarterbacks, Randy Johnson and Bob Berry, were thrown 70 times for 527 yards last year.

"We are going to insist on developing a strong running game based on blocking and putting other people on

their backs," said Van Brocklin. "In other words, playing the game on their [the oppositions'] side of the line."

Van is aware the Falcons enter 1969 with the record of the next to poorest rushing attack in the league. This should improve.

Junior Coffey, a top-10 caliber runner, has come back after missing an entire season with a bum knee. Coffey has shown he can run, even with scant aid from his blockers. Paul Gipsen, drafted second after Kunz, is Coffey's likely running mate. That should be a decent tandem with speed and power—at least to the line, and across it if the blocking improves. Jim (Cannonball) Butler and Harmon Wages are other runners.

The Dutchman is expected to start Johnson, who was a rookie starter in the Falcons' first season, at quarterback. Scouts tab him as a future star. But he has been troubled every season and his progress has been slow.

Says Van Brocklin, "Having his worst three years behind him, he should start making a move toward championship class quarterbacking."

But Van Brocklin's patience is notably short. It would not surprise if Berry, one of Van's favorites in Minnesota, does considerable No. 1 quarterbacking this year. Berry scrambles, which at least gives a passer a chance when the line collapses in front of him.

The receiving is just so-so. It might be better if the passers were given the chance to set up and let the receivers run their patterns. Bob Long, back from a knee injury, should be a fine flanker. Jerry Simmons plays the other wide spot and he has speed, but lacks experience. Tight end is another problem spot. Paul Flatley is a veteran journeyman receiver, while Dave Dunaway is young.

In hopes of improving the line play, Van Brocklin drafted two other blockers in early rounds after Kunz. Mal Snider and Jon Sandstrom are their

names, and either or both could also break in. The old competition along the line comes from Roy Schmidt, Jerry Jones and Jim Simon—all let go by other clubs before descending upon Atlanta—and youngster Steve Duich.

"Our defensive unit was somewhat ahead of the offensive unit," continues Van Brocklin, "but ranked at near the bottom in the majority of statistics. There is tremendous room for improvement."

The defensive line features three men who are playing in their second seasons. That means they were rookies last year, and consequently should be better now. Claude Humphrey is a potential star at end and Carlton Dabney and Rick Cash are promising. Jerry Shay and Frank Molden are the only well-experienced linemen and rookie John Zook joins the crowd.

Throughout the Falcons' existence, Tommy Nobis has been the entire defense. He still is, and he's just about the finest middle linebacker there is. When Van says, "We're going to strive to eliminate confusion in linebacking assignments," he's talking mostly about the outside positions, where only Grady Allen has put in any playing time.

The defensive backfield could now have some stability. Only left corner Ken Reaves started and finished last season. Nick Rassas and Billy Lothridge return as the safetymen. Lothridge could be spelled though, because of his punting duties and because he has only one kidney. The right corner is Jimmy Burson.

The Falcons do have a statistical champion—Lothridge, who is the NFL's premier punter. That makes him a busy man. Bobby Etter does the field goal kicking just about any time the offense manages to locate itself across midfield. His size, 152 pounds, limits his range.

It could be a critical season in Atlanta—in two senses of the word.

1968 RECORD (2-12)

7	Minnesota	47
20	Baltimore	28
13	San Francisco	28
7	Green Bay	38
24	New York	21
14	Los Angeles	27
7	Cleveland	30
21	Pittsburgh	41
10	Los Angeles	17
16	Chicago	13
12	St. Louis	17
0	Baltimore	44
7	Detroit	24
12	San Francisco	14

SYMBOLS

**—Traded
†—League leader

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Etter	0	17	11	50
Long	4	0	0	24
Dunn	3	0	0	18
Berry	2	0	0	12
Butler	2	0	0	12
**Ogden	2	0	0	12

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Berry	153	81	1433	66	7	13	52.9
Johnson	156	73	892	71	2	10	46.8

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Simmons	28	479	0	61	17.1
**Ogden	25	452	2	60	18.1
Long	22	484	4	71	22.0
Flatley	20	305	0	66	15.3

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Burson	4	100	1	73	25.0
Lothridge	3	76	0	44	25.3
**Calland	2	34	0	21	17.0

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Lothridge	75	3324†	70	44.3†

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Burson	11	56	0	17	5.1
Rassas	4	10	0	5	2.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Butler	37	799	0	42	21.6
Rassas	10	180	0	24	18.0

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Johnson, Randy	6-3	196	25	4	Texas A&I
Berry, Bob	5-11	190	27	5	Oregon
Lemmerman, Bruce	6-1	196	23	2	San Fernando Valley

Johnson has the arm, knowledge, savvy and all he needs is experience and immunity from injury. Should progress under Coach Van Brocklin, who likes scrambling Berry. Lemmerman is backup. PERF. QT.: 5.

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Coffey, Junior	6-1	210	27	4	Washington
Gipson, Paul	6-0	205	22	1	Houston
Butler, Jim	5-10	185	26	5	Edward Waters
Wages, Harmon	6-1	210	23	2	Florida
Dunn, Perry Lee	6-2	215	28	6	Mississippi
Harris, Bill	6-0	190	23	2	Colorado

Another reason the Falcons score the fewest points in NFL. Should be better if Coffey's knee holds and Gipson comes through as planned. Coffey has explosive power to rank in top 10. Gipson has the speed; he likely will start as a rookie because of lack of competition. Butler is fast but flighty, and Wages is not fast and has ordinary potential. Dunn and Harris can play only in Atlanta. PERF. QT.: 3.

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Simmons, Jerry (W)	6-1	189	26	5	Bethune-Cookman
Flatley, Paul (W)	6-1	187	28	7	Northwestern
Donohoe, Mike (T)	6-3	227	22	2	San Francisco
Long, Bob (W)	6-3	205	27	6	Wichita
Dunaway, Dave (W)	6-2	205	24	2	Duke
Eber, Rick (W)	6-0	173	24	2	Tulsa

This is one of many needy areas with Simmons, Flatley and Donohoe probable starters, although Long could replace Flatley if his knee is stable. Falcons had next-to-worst pass attack in NFL and fewest TD passes. Simmons has speed and at times gets open. Flatley, around for years, hasn't made it. Donohoe is journeyman. Long is injury prone. Dunaway has scant experience. Eber is backup. PERF. QT.: 5.

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jones, Jerry (T)	6-4	265	25	4	Bowling Green
Duich, Steve (G)	6-3	248	23	2	San Diego State
Sobocinski, Phil (C)	6-3	235	23	2	Wisconsin
Simon, Jim (G)	6-4	240	29	7	Miami
Kunz, George (T)	6-5	245	22	1	Notre Dame
Schmidt, Roy (G)	6-3	250	27	3	Long Beach State
Sandeman, Bill (T)	6-6	250	26	4	Pacific
Cerne, Joe (C)	6-2	240	26	5	Northwestern
Snider, Mal (G-T)	6-4	235	22	1	Stanford
Sandstrom, Jon (G)	6-2	235	22	1	Oregon State

Falcons lead the league in having their quarterbacks dumped, and the fault lies in the line. It happened a whopping 70 times last year. The blocking is below mediocre and all positions are open. Kunz, first draft choice, will fit into one surely. But he'll be alone against the storm like Tommy Nobis on defense. Jones has experience, Duich doesn't. This at least makes Duich potentially better. Sobocinski is an adequate center, as is Cerne. Simon has been around for years without doing much and will have to stand off Schmidt, another journeyman who has troubles. Snider and Sandstrom are hopes and Sandeman is big, anyway. Quarterbacks, duck! PERF. QT.: 5.

KICKER	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Etter, Bob	5-11	152	24	2	Georgia

Etter's size hurts long kicks. Billy Lothridge punts well. PERF. QT.: 3.

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Humphrey, Claude (E)	6-5	255	25	2	Tennessee State
Shay, Jerry (T)	6-3	245	25	4	Purdue
Dabney, Carlton (T)	6-5	255	22	2	Morgan State
Cash, Rick (E)	6-5	260	24	2	Northwest Missouri
Garcia, Jim (E)	6-4	250	25	5	Purdue
Molden, Frank (T)	6-5	276	27	3	Jackson State
Zook, John (E)	6-4	235	21	1	Kansas
Strahan, Art (T)	6-5	266	26	2	Texas Southern

Defense yielded most points in league, too, but line is extremely young and has sufficient promise. Humphrey could develop into a better DE in another year and Dabney might become a fine tackle. Running and pass rush provide equal trouble to line as a whole. Like Humphrey and Dabney, Cash is in only second season and should get better. Shay is fair. Molden and Zook provide some depth. Zook could become a star in the near future. Garcia is well-traveled, never realizing his potential. Strahan unknown. PERF. QT.: 4.

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Allen, Grady (O)	6-3	225	23	2	Texas A&M
Nobis Tommy (M)	6-2	235	26	4	Texas
Brezina, Greg (O)	6-2	220	23	2	Houston
Hansen, Don (O)	6-3	228	25	3	Illinois
Ferguson, Jim (O-M)	6-4	240	26	2	Southern California

Nobis ranks in the top group of middle backers, could be the best if he didn't have to do everything—call signals, rove all over, etc. Allen is learning and has range. Hansen or Brezina fills the other outside spot. Hansen has been hurt, but had a decent year in Minnesota after strong college career. Ferguson is reserve. PERF. QT.: 3.

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Reaves, Ken	6-3	205	24	7	Norfolk State
Burson, Jimmy	6-1	185	28	4	Auburn
Mallory, John	6-0	190	23	2	West Virginia
Freeman, Mike	5-11	190	25	2	Fresno State
Lyons, Dicky	6-0	195	22	1	Kentucky

Help needed here, too. Reaves is rough tackler and could become a fine interceptor. Opposition tends to pick on Burson, who still has games when he plays extremely well. Mallory needs to learn, but he could work in eventually. Freeman is very inexperienced and Lyons is highly promising. PERF. QT.: 4.

SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Rassas, Nick (S)	6-0	190	25	4	Notre Dame
Lothridge, Billy (W)	6-1	190	27	6	Georgia Tech
Hudlow, Floyd (W-S)	5-11	195	25	3	Arizona
Redmond, Rudy (W-S)	6-0	185	21	1	Pacific

Not bad considering other areas. Rassas has been learning coverage well and punter Lothridge surprised with his ability when he was put on defense. He's a good defender. Hudlow is an adequate reserve. Redmond has promise. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Prediction: First

Dynasties crumble in professional football, and sometimes those involved are slower in realizing and accepting this than neutrals. The remnants of the Packer's great championship teams can read the following proclamation upon entrance into their carpeted locker room:

"The greatness of the Green Bay Packers is not in that they never fall but that they rise every time they fall."

The author is not identified. But it sounds like something from Vince Lombardi before he abandoned town.

At every red light in the hamlet, cars can be seen lined up with bumper stickers bearing the legend: "The Pack Will Be Back."

Perhaps so, in part. Because they are in the Central Division, where there is no dominant team, the Packers could win a title again—divisional type. But to say that the Pack will be back, all the way back, is a pure delusion. The Pack will not be 100 percent back because:

Vince Lombardi won't be back; Jerry Kramer won't be back; Bob Skoronski won't be back; Forrest Gregg won't be back—unless he can be coaxed back off the coaching staff; super reliever Zeke Bratkowski won't be back. These gentlemen join other recent departees such as Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, Max McGee, Fuzzy Thurston and Don Chandler.

This year the Packers have lost their dynasty creator, Lombardi, and three-fifths of their offensive line. Coach Phil Bengtson has some kind of patch job to do here.

Francis Peay, so slow to mature, is Skoronski's heir apparent at left tackle. Peay, if he could respond to responsibility, could be OK. He has the raw tools. Dick Himes, a second-year man with promise, is due to succeed Gregg at right tackle. Bob Hyland, another lagging developer, is first choice as Kramer's successor at right guard.

Hyland is going to have trouble

leading the sweeps. Young Gale Gil-
ligham unexpectedly now is the leader
on the line. He is a fine blocker at left
guard. Ken Bowman is back at center.

Also back are the complete back-
field and receiving corps. How Bart
Starr and cohorts will function behind
a new line must have Bengtson con-
cerned.

Starr, of course, had Lombardi's
ideas and discipline programmed into
him. He is a wonderfully machined
quarterback, an accurate passer, a
magnificent play caller. He is conserva-
tive, yet suddenly and unexpectedly
daring. This could be his final season,
a last hurrah for a passer good enough
to complete 63 percent in a painful,
losing season in 1968.

With Brat retired to coaching,
young Don Horn is Starr's backup.
Horn might be the finest young passer
in the NFL.

Runners Donny Anderson and Jim
Grabowski have yet to blend as effec-
tively as Taylor and Hornung did. But
they are getting closer. The Packers'
ground game will gain yardage. Ander-
son has mastered the off tackle running
that is dominant in the Packers' system.
Grabowski knifes well inside. There
is depth with Travis Williams and
rookie Perry Williams and aching old
Elijah Pitts.

The Packers have had so much
strength elsewhere, the receiving
corps has suffered without its deserved
acclaim. Starr is blessed with excep-
tional men to catch his passes. Carroll
Dale never is recognized as an All-Pro.
He should be. He gets open, is fast
and makes fine catches. Boyd Dowler
is the largest split end; his size enables
him to overpower any cornerback.
Marv Fleming, who blocks well, is
one of Starr's favorites on short, third-
down situations. This group is bol-
stered by Anderson's receiving abil-
ities out of the backfield.

While the offense has been changed
radically, the defense is 10/11ths back.
This defense, a major factor in the

Packers' dynasty, was not as effective
as normal last year. Injuries were a
primary reason.

The only defensive man gone is
Tom Brown, the strong-side safety.
He has gone to Washington with Lom-
bardi. Veteran Doug Hart, a strong
tackler, is the likely replacement, but
John Rowser, a hitter, could win the
job in a switch from backup cornerback.

The Packers still have eight men
who have been All-Pro on defense
earlier in their careers—left end
Willie Davis, right tackle Henry Jor-
dan, linebackers Dave Robinson, Ray
Nitschke and Lee Roy Caffey, free
safety Willie Wood and cornerbacks
Herb Adderley and Bob Jeter. How-
ever, none of the eight qualified as
All-Pro last year in the general decline.
Robinson still must be regarded as an
All-Pro type while Nitschke still plays
with the fury for which he is famous.
Davis was hurt, and healthy he's one
of the foremost pass rushers. Jordan is
aging and Bob Brown could replace
him. Rookie Rich Moore, the top draft
choice, is another possibility. Lionel
Aldridge is back at right end and Ron
Kostelnik is back at left tackle.

With Don Chandler gone after the
Super Bowl a year ago, the placekick-
ing suffered. The Packers used four
men and were unable to fill the void
until they discovered Mike Mercer in
limbo at mid-season. Mercer has
bounced around both leagues without
taking root. But he can produce the
clutch field goal and the placekicking
must be regarded as improved.

Anderson remains as the punter.
His asset there is he punts popups
which are virtually impossible to re-
turn because their height enhances the
coverage downfield.

They're not going to look too much
like the Packers any more. They're
going to have to struggle. But they
ought to rise again in their division
for this one year at least. It'll be strange
without the sound and fury of Lom-
bardi.

1968 RECORD (6-7-1)

30	Philadelphia	13
13	Minnesota	26
17	Detroit	23
38	Atlanta	7
14	Los Angeles	16
14	Detroit	14
28	Dallas	17
10	Chicago	13
10	Minnesota	14
29	New Orleans	7
27	Washington	7
20	San Francisco	27
3	Baltimore	16
28	Chicago	27

SYMBOLS

†—League leader
 ††—Tied for league lead
 *—Retired
 **—Traded

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Dale	8	0	0	48
Anderson	6	0	0	36
Dowler	6	0	0	36
Mercer	0	12	7	33

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Dowler	45	668	6	72	14.8
Dale	42	818	8	63	19.5
Anderson	25	333	1	47	13.3
Fleming	25	278	3	32	11.1

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
**T. Brown	4	66	0	25	16.5
Jeter	3	35	0	29	11.7
Adderley	3	27	0	17	9.0

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Anderson	170	761	5	42	4.5
Grabowski	135	518	3	25	3.8
Pitts	72	264	2	14	3.7
Williams	33	63	0	9	1.9

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Anderson	59	2359	65	40.0

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Wood	26	126	0	16	4.8
**T. Brown	16	111	1	52	7.0

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Starr	171	109	1617	63	15	8††	63.7†
*Bratkowski	126	68	835	72	3	7	54.0
Horn	16	10	187	67	2	0	62.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Williams	28	599	0	60	21.4
Adderley	14	331	0	50	23.6

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Starr, Bart	6-1	190	35	14	Alabama
Horn, Don	6-2	195	24	3	San Diego State
Stevens, Billy	6-3	195	24	2	Texas-El Paso
RUNNING BACKS					
Anderson, Donny	6-3	210	26	4	Texas Tech
Grabowski, Jim	6-2	220	25	4	Illinois
Williams, Travis	6-1	210	23	3	Arizona State
Pitts, Elijah	6-1	205	30	9	Philander Smith
Mercein, Chuck	6-2	220	26	5	Yale
Williams, Perry	6-2	219	22	1	Purdue
Wilson, Ben	6-1	230	29	6	Southern California
RECEIVERS					
Dale, Carroll (W)	6-2	200	31	10	Virginia Tech
Dowler, Boyd (W-T)	6-5	225	31	11	Colorado
Fleming, Marv (T)	6-4	235	27	7	Utah
Pope, Bucky (W)	6-5	200	28	5	Catawba
Spilis, John (W)	6-3	205	22	1	Northern Illinois
Beath, Andy (W)	6-2	192	23	1	Duke
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Himes, Dick (T)	6-4	244	23	2	Ohio State
Gillingham, Gale (G)	6-3	255	25	4	Minnesota
Bowman, Ken (C)	6-3	230	26	6	Wisconsin
Hyland, Bob (G-C)	6-5	250	24	3	Boston College
Peay, Francis (T)	6-5	250	25	4	Missouri
Lueck, Bill (G)	6-3	235	23	2	Arizona
Bradley, Dave (T-G)	6-4	245	22	1	Penn State
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKER					
Mercer, Mike	6-0	217	33	9	Arizona State

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Davis, Willie (E)	6-3	245	35	12	Grambling
Kostelnik, Ron (T)	6-4	260	29	9	Cincinnati
Jordan, Henry (T)	6-3	250	34	13	Virginia
Aldridge, Lionel (E)	6-4	245	28	7	Utah State
Brown, Bob (T-E)	6-5	260	29	4	Arkansas AM&N
Weatherwax, Jim (T)	6-7	260	26	4	Cal. State-LA
Carroll, Leo (E)	6-7	250	26	2	San Diego State
Vandersea, Phil (E)	6-3	235	26	4	Massachusetts
Moore, Rich (T)	6-6	285	22	1	Villanova
Crenshaw, Leon (T)	6-6	280	25	2	Tuskegee
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
Robinson, Dave (O)	6-3	240	28	7	Penn State
Nitschke, Ray (M)	6-3	235	32	12	Illinois
Caffey, Lee Roy (O)	6-3	250	28	7	Texas A&M
Carr, Fred (O)	6-5	238	23	2	Texas-El Paso
Flanigan, Jim (M)	6-3	240	24	3	Pittsburgh
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Adderley, Herb	6-0	200	30	9	Michigan State
Jeter, Bob	6-1	205	32	7	Iowa
Rowser, John	6-1	180	25	3	Michigan
SAFETIES					
Hart, Doug (S)	6-0	190	30	6	Texas-Arlington
Wood, Willie (W)	5-10	190	32	10	Southern California
Rule, Gordon (S-W)	6-2	180	23	2	Dartmouth
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

Starr still functions like superbly efficient machine. Doesn't like to be rushed, now might be. Horn is heir and is young carbon of Starr. Stevens is third man. PERF. QT.: 2.

Anderson and Grabowski now ready to be more than functional unit. They don't have the holes they need, but Anderson can go inside and out and Grabowski goes inside well. Both can catch ball. Likely they will be needed to pass block more. T. Williams flashy, but needs consistency. Pitts slowed. Mercein, Wilson only journeymen who can supply occasional help. Wilson might not be able to return to '68 Super Bowl form because of injury. P. Williams has high promise. PERF. QT.: 3.

The Packers' receiver corps doesn't get the acclaim given some others, but it is vastly underrated. Dale has speed and moves, gets open and catches the ball. Dowler is excellent size for a split end vs. any cornerback, a distinct advantage. Fleming is good on short patterns Packers use so well, and is good blocker. Pope has suffered from injuries for years. Spilis and Beath battling for one spot. PERF. QT.: 2.

The line is in retirement ruins with all Bart Starr's key protectors now gone. Forrest Gregg may have to unretire from coaching staff to fill a void. As it is, Peay, still lacking experience, moves to left; strong blocking Himes becomes right tackle. Bowman has been a decent center and Gillingham, left guard, is now line leader despite youth. Hyland has lacked competitiveness, but must replace Jerry Kramer. Gregg, Kramer, Bob Skoronski will be missed. Lueck, Bradley green. PERF. QT.: 4.

Mercer is run-of-mill. Punter Anderson does job. PERF. QT.: 4.

This old unit returns intact although it might be changed. They were slipping past Jordan last year. Davis did not have one of his better seasons. Aldridge was hurt a lot. Healthy, this is a fine front four. Davis remains a definite pass rush threat. Kostelnik is steady, never spectacular. The Jordan of old rushes passers and stops runners. Aldridge is a fine rusher. Brown can fill in at any of the spots and play regularly. Weatherwax, very reliable, is back from injury. Carroll still must show some flame. He has the other tools. Vandersea has played almost everywhere, maybe end is his niche. Crenshaw was a decent rookie. No. 1 draft Moore has size, unlimited potential. PERF. QT.: 3.

It was absolutely the best unit and if it recovers from last year's slippage it could be again. Robinson is the best against running and passes. Nitschke still roams to where the action is. Caffey, overshadowed by the others, is fast and agile against runs. Flanigan is a very capable youngster. Carr has it all save experience. PERF. QT.: 1.

Adderley and Jeter still are the best corner tandem against passes in football, quick and adept. Adderley also excels against the run. Young Rowser hits and could start at strong safety. PERF. QT.: 2.

Wood a fine pass coverage man, although only average against the run. He has range, game-saving knack. Tom Brown gone and hard-hitting Hart might replace. Rule has outside shot. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Prediction: Second

We plan to meet at the quarterback," says Jim Marshall, who once traipsed half a football field with a stolen ball and wound up in his own end zone. His statement is the game plan of a conspiracy by four pro football muggers.

It is an accepted fact in professional football that a team cannot be regarded as a challenger until it has developed a defense. The Vikings have been in business for nine years now. They are the reigning titleholders of the Central Division. They can repeat because of that defense. But they are handicapped by an incomplete offense, guided by a courageous but limited quarterback. Joe Kapp, the quarterback, is something out of old football tintypes. What quarterback in this modern day rushes up to the line of scrimmage, halts and throws a jump pass? Wasn't that legislated out of pro football years ago with the flying wedge? But Joe Kapp throws jump passes. And he scrambles around and runs and if he has to, he sticks his helmeted head into the bellies of the defensive monsters across the line.

With Kapp's unorthodox quarterbacking and the four muggers—Carl Eller, Alan Page, Gary Larson and Marshall—Coach Bud Grant envisions beautiful happenings for the Vikings.

"Two years ago the Vikings were in the lower group of NFL teams, the bottom group," says Grant. "Now we're somewhere in the middle. We won the Central Division in 1968, but that still doesn't put us in the top group. We played five games against the top group last season. We lost twice to Baltimore, twice to Dallas and once to Los Angeles.

"We speak of improvement by the Vikings. We aren't talking about winning the Central Division—though we know we have to do this—we are talking about WINNING IT ALL.

"To do this we have to make the final jump up from the middle to that

top group. We have to be able to beat Dallas or Baltimore, at least be able to break even with them. And to be able to beat them we must improve, in every area, from within."

Improvement from within is Grant's 1969 philosophy. He means wholesale improvement—by the athletes who won in the division last year, not through addition of new players. It is a concept that could be debated. But the Vikings have improved so much in two years under Grant the man's beliefs must be honored.

The Vikings this year are certain to have areas of deficiencies. Kapp's passing is one. What was the 13th ranked passer in the NFL doing in a playoff game anyway? The receiving is another. Only Gene Washington has proven anything. He's an acrobat who can go deep. Grant insists on more speed to help Washington on deep patterns. How do you improve speed from within? Can Tom Hall, the journeyman flanker, run faster when he is not that fast? Can John Henderson, who is faster, finally learn to run patterns? The last question gets a maybe; the answer to the first one is no.

Another deficiency is the pass defense by the linebackers. Not a single interception last year.

But there is good reason for the optimism because of the great front four. It is the equal of the Rams'... a group that tramples quarterbacks when all four meet around him. Eller and Page are especially fearsome on the pass rush.

Something might be changed in the linebacking unit where Roy Winston, Lonnie Warwick and Wally Hilgenberg along with John Kirby are the returnees. The defensive backfield is just fair. Paul Krause, the free safety, intercepts a lot of passes. Corners Earnest Mackbee and Ed Sharockman and strong safety Karl Kassulke are not inspiring.

The Vikings often use a seven-man defensive backfield in passing situa-

tions. That is a tactic devised by assistant Jim Carr, who moved to the Bears in what the Vikings consider an act of piracy. There is little love between these two clubs.

"Bill Brown is the best fullback in the NFL," says Grant. The assessment is valid. The stumpy Brown gets the yardage, scores the touchdowns, makes the blocks, catches the swing passes. Brown runs well with Dave Osborn, a high potency runner back from a knee injury. Together they are a top tandem. Clint Jones, who will spell Osborn, still has not become a proven pro despite starting all last year. The Vikings do have backfield depth with Jones and reliable Jim Lindsey plus Oscar Reed.

Kapp enters the season undisputed as No. 1. "He competes as hard as any player we've ever seen," says Grant. "He is immensely respected by his teammates." Kapp, a refugee from the Canadian League, has applied his unusual tactics toward winning in the NFL. Behind him is stylist Gary Cuozzo, more of a student of classic quarterbacking, but apparently less effective at the controls of the team. The third quarterback, King Hill, punts.

The government rendered a blow to the line when Ron Yary had to get into the Army. This giant was ready to play regularly, but needed the benefit of training camp. His return is scheduled too late for camp, although he could be of service during the season. Still, the line is fine. Grady Alderman is an excellent tackle and Mick Tingelhoff is the perennial All-Pro center. The others are Milt Sunde and Jim Vellone at the guards and Doug Davis probably at a tackle until Yary is ready to assume the starting job.

In the long range thoughts of the conspiracy of muggers, the plan is to meet at a quarterback named Joe Namath or Daryle Lamonica. It won't be this season. But it is an appealing thought at that—Joe Kapp throwing jump passes in the Super Bowl.

1968 RECORD (8-8)			SYMBOL		RECEIVING						INTERCEPTIONS								
			†—League leader																
47	Atlanta	7			Washington	46	756	6	61	16.3	Krause	7	82	0	29	11.7			
26	Green Bay	13			Brown	31	329	3	57	10.6	Sharockman	4	70	0	22	17.5			
17	Chicago	27			Beasley	23	289	0	20	12.5	Bryant	2	60	1	51	30.0			
24	Detroit	10			Hall	19	268	1	37	14.0	Mackbee	2	55	0	36	27.5			
17	New Orleans	20	SCORING																
7	Dallas	20	TDs PATs FGs Total								PUNTING								
24	Chicago	26	Cox	0	31	19	88							Punts Yds Longest Avg					
27	Washington	14	Brown	14	0	0	84							Hill 33 1354 53 41.0					
14	Green Bay	10	Washington	6	0	0	36	RUSHING						Martin 28 1046 49 37.3					
13	Detroit	6	Lindsey	4	0	0	24												
9	Baltimore	21			Brown	222	805	11	32	3.6	PUNT RETURNS								
3	Los Angeles	31			Jones	128	536	1	43	4.1									
30	San Francisco	20			Kapp	50	269	3	27	5.3	Rets Yds TDs Longest Avg								
24	Philadelphia	17			Lindsey	53	152	4	9	2.8	West	20	201	1	98†	10.0			
14	Baltimore	24			Osborn	42	140	0	23	3.3	Bryant	10	49	0	15	4.9			
13	Dallas	17																	
	(Playoff Bowl)		PASSING								KICKOFF RETURNS								
			Atts Comps Yds Longest TDs Ints Pct								Rets Yds TDs Longest Avg								
			Kapp	248	129	1699	61	10	17	52.1	West 22 576 0 82 26.2								
			Cuozzo	33	24	299	31	1	0	72.7	Bryant 18 373 0 35 19.6								

NFL WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION

DETROIT LIONS

Prediction: Third

On an otherwise peaceful Sunday in Detroit, there can be a bombardment of snowballs at the coach... there can be an obscene gesture made back to the fans when they disagree with some strategy... there can be a defensive tackle berating the quarterback and questioning his fortitude... there can be an argument at the bench... there can be a personnel director blasting the owner and general manager in public.

These events are not fictional. They all happened. This is the nature of a struggling football team, the Lions, a team that once was great and no longer is. The Lions seem to attract turbulence and perpetuate it despite all efforts to produce solidarity.

The trouble will go away when the Lions become improved on the football field. They cannot be expected to improve greatly this fall, despite a recent influx of talent.

The Lions have some outstanding players—Mel Farr, Alex Karras, Lem Barney, Wayne Walker. They have some others who are very promising—Bill Munson, Earl McCullough, Charlie Sanders, Ed Flanagan, Chuck Walton, Paul Naumoff, Mike Weger, Nick Eddy. Of those listed, only Karras, Walker and Flanagan have been in the Lions' employ longer than three years.

This must be considered a team that will someday improve. But for the present, the Lions will struggle. Their offensive line is the most evident reason. It is threadbare. Thus, the offense starts to struggle. Over one horrendous stretch of 14 quarters last year the offense was unable to produce even one touchdown. Injuries to key men such as Munson, Farr and McCullough were cited. But other clubs had injuries and still won.

This pinpoints another drawback. With all their fine individuals, the Lions do not have the depth required to become a winner. The club also seems to be hounded by silly mistakes

—holding and motion penalties, fumbles at the most inopportune times.

They have the personnel to move the ball. The offense will be multiple this year, guided by Munson. He is the quarterback the Lions long sought and he has had a year to become familiar with their system. He throws expertly and provides leadership, which was sorely needed.

There is the running to make the passing a better weapon. Farr is a truly fine runner. He can break away, he can cut, he goes outside, inside, over and under. Get him into the open on a flare pass and it could be a long touchdown. He compares favorably with NFL stars Gale Sayers and Leroy Kelly.

Coach Joe Schmidt long has envisioned using Farr in the same backfield with Eddy. It can materialize this year—Farr at halfback, Eddy at fullback. So far two knee operations for Eddy and one for Farr have prevented their use in tandem. But now both of them are sound.

"This is the fastest team in Lions' history," says Schmidt.

The Lions' offense will concentrate on speed. Together Farr and Eddy would comprise probably the fastest backfield in the NFL. Behind them are Altie Taylor, a speedy rookie who'll get a chance to play, and veteran pluggers Tom Nowatzke, Dave Kopay and Bill Triplett.

There is extra speed, too, in the pass catching corps. McCullough, who shunned a probable Olympic medal to play, is a stunning receiver. He was Rookie of the Year, mainly on the bombs he caught in the early season. Toe and hand injuries have been cured. Still to be cured is some vague pattern running. Also a second-year man is Sanders, the tight end built on the blueprint of John Mackey. He is a tough receiver and fine blocker. Billy Gambrell is a clutch catcher at flanker, despite his smallish stature. The Lions also have Bill Malinchak, a capable

receiver who for some reason is in Schmidt's doghouse.

All this appears great—except for the line. Flanagan deserves more credit at center; he's an excellent blocker. Walton has become a top guard in two NFL campaigns. Bob Kowalkowski plays the other guard and is somewhat green on sweeps. Charley Bradshaw, a veteran tackle, might retire, complicating the line woes. Schmidt likes gigantic Rockne Freitas for the other tackle. Roger Shoals might be retained for reserve work, or he might start if Bradshaw leaves. A trade or two would be of help.

Defense has been the Lions' game ever since Schmidt was All-Pro and Bobby Layne left town as a quarterback legend. The line has some age to it. Karras remains as fine a pass rushing defensive tackle as he ever was, which means one of the best. Larry Hand has become a very fine defensive end. Jerry Rush, the other tackle, plays an adept game. John Baker and Joe Robb, two old-timers, are competing at the other end.

Linebacking is a strength with Mike Lucci an unsung hero in the middle flanked by Walker and young Naumoff. Barney, in two seasons, became the top cornerback in the pros—quick, gambling, a touchdown-scoring interceptor. Weger will be a good strong safety, Tom Vaughn is a fine free safety. Dick LeBeau returns after a disappointing season to fight Bobby Williams, a former Cardinal, for his right cornerback spot.

Jerry DePoyster should regain the placekicking job he lost in a tension-wracked rookie season. His field goal work disappointed, but his punting was decent. Barney is always dangerous on returns, and will be joined by Taylor.

After a three-quarter turnover in Schmidt's first two seasons, the Lions are almost unchanged this year—which could slow progress. Meanwhile, watch for the next tumultuous scene.

1968 RECORD (4-8-2)

13	Dallas	59
42	Chicago	0
23	Green Bay	17
10	Minnesota	24
28	Chicago	10
14	Green Bay	14
7	San Francisco	14
7	Los Angeles	10
10	Baltimore	17
6	Minnesota	13
20	New Orleans	20
0	Philadelphia	12
24	Atlanta	7
3	Washington	14

SYMBOL

†—League leader

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Farr	7	0	0	42
Gambrell	7	0	0	42
McCullouch	5	0	0	30
DePoyster	0	18	3	27

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
McCullouch	40	680	5	80	17.0
Sanders	40	533	1	25	13.3
Gambrell	28	492	7	50	17.6
Triplett	28	135	0	25	4.8

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Barney	7	82	0	62	11.7
Weger	5	50	0	18	10.0
LeBeau	5	23	0	16	4.6

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
DePoyster	71	2868	60	40.4

RUSHING

	Att's	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Farr	128	597	3	46	4.7
Triplett	120	385	0	17	3.2
Kopay	53	207	0	22	3.9
Eddy	48	176	0	20	3.7

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Barney	13	79	0	18	6.1
Eddy	4	10	0	11	2.5

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Munson	329	181	2311	86	15	8†	55.0
Landry	48	23	338	80	2	7	47.9

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Barney	25	670	1	98	26.8
Thompson	17	363	0	40	21.4

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Munson, Bill	6-2	200	28	6	Utah State
Landry, Greg	6-4	205	22	2	Massachusetts
Barton, Greg	6-2	195	23	1	Tulsa
RUNNING BACKS					
Farr, Mel	6-1	200	24	3	UCLA
Eddy, Nick	6-1	210	25	2	Notre Dame
Nowatzke, Tom	6-3	230	26	5	Indiana
Kopay, Dave	6-0	225	27	6	Washington
Taylor, Altie	5-10	196	22	1	Utah State
Triplett, Bill	6-2	210	29	7	Miami (Ohio)
RECEIVERS					
McCullouch, Earl (W)	5-11	180	23	2	Southern California
Gambrell, Bill (W)	5-10	180	27	7	South Carolina
Sanders, Charlie (T)	6-4	215	22	2	Minnesota
Odle, Phil (W)	5-11	190	26	2	Brigham Young
Malinchak, Bill (W)	6-1	200	25	4	Indiana
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Freitas, Rockne (T)	6-6	260	24	2	Oregon State
Walton, Chuck (G)	6-3	250	28	3	Iowa State
Flanagan, Ed (C)	6-3	250	25	5	Purdue
Kowalkowski, Bob (G)	6-3	245	25	4	Virginia
Bradshaw, Charlie (T)	6-6	260	33	12	Baylor
Shoals, Roger (T)	6-4	255	30	7	Maryland
Cottrell, Bill (T-G)	6-2	250	25	3	Delaware Valley
Gallagher, Frank (G)	6-2	240	26	3	North Carolina
Yarbrough, Jim (T)	6-6	250	22	1	Florida
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKER					
DePoyster, Jerry	6-1	200	23	2	Wyoming
DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Baker, John (E)	6-6	270	34	12	North Carolina College
Karras, Alex (T)	6-2	255	34	11	Iowa
Rush, Jerry (T)	6-4	260	26	5	Michigan State
Hand, Larry (E)	6-4	245	29	5	Appalachian State
Robb, Joe (E)	6-3	245	32	11	Texas Christian
Moore, Denis (T-E)	6-5	255	25	3	Southern California
Sieminski, Chuck (T)	6-5	270	29	7	Penn State
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
Naumoff, Paul (O)	6-1	225	24	3	Tennessee
Lucci, Mike (M)	6-2	230	29	8	Tennessee
Walker, Wayne (O)	6-2	225	31	12	Idaho
Mooney, Ed (O)	6-2	240	24	2	Texas Tech
Chatlos, George (O)	6-0	215	23	1	Michigan State
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Barney, Lem	6-0	185	24	3	Jackson State
LeBeau, Dick	6-1	185	32	11	Ohio State
Williams, Bobby	6-0	205	27	3	Central State
Walton, Larry	5-11	180	22	1	Arizona State
Thompson, Bobby	5-10	185	30	6	Arizona
SAFETIES					
Weger, Mike (S-W)	6-1	185	23	3	Bowling Green
Vaughn, Tommy (W-S)	5-11	190	26	5	Iowa State
Rasmussen, Wayne (W-S)	6-2	175	27	6	South Dakota State
Carr, Henry (W-S)	6-3	195	26	4	Arizona State
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

When sound, Munson is close to top NFL quarterbacks. Can fire up club, but sometimes hangs onto ball too long. Fine passer, never with a winner. Great promise in Landry. Barton taxies. PERF. QT.: 3.

Knees have troubled Farr and Eddy. Together, if healthy, they'd be fastest duo in NFL, though rather light. Farr can rate with Sayers, Kelly—great moves, good speed, breaking ability. Eddy is fragile, must be used with caution, but retains excellent potential. They can make for explosive attack, help balance good passing. Taylor fast. Nowatzke slow but powerful. Kopay, Triplett adequate. PERF. QT.: 2.

An improved unit. McCullouch has the great speed; recovery from rookie injuries makes him ever dangerous. Gambrell is a fine clutch receiver despite diminutive size. Sanders reminds of John Mackey and should develop into an outstanding tight end. He can block and catch when surrounded. Malinchak, Odle ample reserves. PERF. QT.: 2.

A longtime weak area, deficient in pass blocking and a burden to the QB and runners. Walton and Flanagan are above average. Walton is excellent leading sweeps, can pass block and is getting smart after seasons in Canada. Flanagan, a steady ironman type, blocks well against the blitz. Line is in trouble if savvy Bradshaw retires. He still can pass block. Kowalkowski is tough, willing, but has to learn to handle sweeps. Fine future predicted for Freitas, but he's green. He should be able to beat out inadequate Shoals. Cottrell is swingman. Yarbrough, high draft, is for the future. PERF. QT.: 4.

Disappointment despite great field goal leg. Fair punter. PERF. QT.: 4.

Old strength of Lions, still provides an outstanding pass rush. Karras still does everything needed from a DT, possesses quickness and agility and should be recognized again as All-Pro. Hand is a tough, serious competitor who gets to passer. Rush is better warding off runners, seldom as spectacular as others. Age at left end where Baker and Robb contend. Baker is better on pass rush, Robb better on run. Moore has been slow coming. Sieminski is bench strength. PERF. QT.: 3.

Top unit that doesn't get recognition. Lucci belongs with top middle backers. Blitzes well and excels as tackler. Walker, old pro, had finest season, always effective against run. Naumoff, newest man, is second-year starter; he overcomes exuberant mistakes. Mooney OK, Chatlos unknown. Short in depth. PERF. QT.: 2.

Barney is best in business. Loves to gamble and make interceptions. Overworked as return man, where he's very dangerous. Has speed, quickness, keen anticipation, flair. LeBeau is slowing down after career as one of best. Still makes most plays, but has rough days. Could be replaced by Williams or Walton. Thompson backup. PERF. QT.: 3.

Weger, in second starting season, is strong against run, slight in man-to-man play against tight ends, but works well in zone. Vaughn very tough against run, has range on pass coverage. Rasmussen is fleet, slight, experienced. Carr questionable. PERF. QT.: 3.

NFL WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION

CHICAGO BEARS

Prediction: Fourth

What would Chicago's old Monsters of the Midway have thought?

Gale Sayers, the finest offensive football weapon in the world, is a stockbroker. Dick Butkus, the evil-eyed blitzing destroyer of quarterbacks, is a Shakespearian scholar.

This is the current offense and defense of the Bears? These are direct descendants of the Monsters, who cavorted by victorious scores of 73-0 and the like?

This is pro football 1969, the age of the well-rounded athlete. It is a year in which the Bears will remain queasy until Sayers' surgical knee is tested in actual combat. If that knee holds as expected, the Bears again should possess the best running attack in the entire National Football League.

This is also a year in which Butkus intends to bring Willie Shakespeare to the playing field. Richard himself explains:

"I've found that reading Shakespeare aloud improves my diction and enunciation, and I think it can help me as a football player. Take this situation: One of our men is shaken up on a play and is slow getting up. The opposing blocker is standing over him laughing. I walk over and instead of snarling at the guy, maybe starting a fight and getting thrown out, I just tell him, 'He jests at scars that never felt a wound.' Now that is bound to set him thinking and teach him a little humility."

Meanwhile, Coach Jim Dooley is aware of the burden on Sayers and hopes to improve the Bears' passing game. A receiver is needed.

"One position could put us in contention," says Dooley, "I'm talking about one lousy position."

In contrast with the best running in the NFL, the Bears enter the new season with the poorest marks in passing. That is largely because of the receiving deficiency. Flanker is the position that bothers Dooley. His current plan, if he can't get somebody reliable

in a trade, is to switch Dick Gordon to flanker. Gordon is fast, but diminutive. Dooley then would divide Gordon's old split end duties between Bob Wallace and Cecil Turner. Austin Denny returns at tight end to compete with Ray Ogden, acquired from Atlanta.

Dooley figures that without the medium and deep receiving threat, every defense will be up taking cracks at Sayers. Gale still gets away with his bursts of acceleration. As always, he'll be a threat receiving and on kick returns, too.

Likely Ronnie Bull will run again with Sayers, although Brian Piccolo has a chance to be the other starting back. Piccolo has more speed than Bull, but less power.

The quarterback situation is unsettled. Jack Concannon, who runs well and passes erratically, probably will outscramble Virgil Carter. Carter is the kid who came off the taxi squad last year, after the Bears started off 1-4, and inspired them to a four-game winning streak. He, too, scrambles better than he passes, and he, too, returns after knee surgery. Bobby Douglass, the left-handed rookie, will receive a quarterback trial first. He could become a running back, though.

"The Bears have had few leaders on offense in the recent past," says Dooley. "The leaders have been mostly on defense. But our two quarterbacks took a definite step toward establishing leadership last year."

"One quarterback has to emerge as the starter from training camp and the preseason games."

About his field generals running, Dooley says, "Why force our quarterbacks, who love to run, to stay in the pocket? We'll still throw from the pocket 85 percent of the time. But the other 15 percent will have to be sprint out or roll out plays, with the option of running."

This concept will loosen defenses and should open areas for Sayers.

The Bears play with an ample offen-

sive line. George Seals has become a top guard. Randy Jackson and Bob Wetoska return at the tackles, Mike Pyle at center and Jim Cadile at guard. Bear quarterbacks are not thrown often when operating in the pocket. First draftee tackle Rufus Mayes will work in gradually.

A once fine defense betrayed the Bears during their poor start last year. When it tightened, the Bears came within one point of winning the Central Division.

The pass rush is not especially fearsome. The return of Marty Amsler at an end should improve it. Ed O'Bradovich, a darling of the Wrigley Field customers, rushes well. Dick Evey is a rather good, underrated tackle. Frank Cornish, the massive other tackle, often annoys his teammates more than the opposition.

Butkus, of course, is the All-Pro middle linebacker. He's big and intimidating, despite the Shakespearian influence. The amazing thing about Butkus is his range. Doug Buffone works well with him. With Jim Purnell traded, the other outside spot is up for grabs.

There will be changes in the still vulnerable secondary with Rich Petitbon traded to LA. Garry Lyle, Tom Greenlee or Major Hazelton could be the new strong safety. Bennie McRae, old reliable, plays the left corner with Joe Taylor or Lee Calland likely at right corner. Curtiss Gentry could reclaim this spot. Rosey Taylor, another standby, is the free safety. There is danger from passing with a minimum rush and inadequate coverage.

The Bears seem to get the best field goal kicking in the league from Mac Percival. Mac led the league with 25 field goals, including a streak of 10 straight successes. He has fine range—eight were good from outside the 40.

Chicago's receiving shortage and defensive troubles could be ruinous. But maybe there can be sonnets during the TV time outs.

1968 RECORD (7-7)

28	Washington	38
0	Detroit	42
27	Minnesota	17
7	Baltimore	28
10	Detroit	28
29	Philadelphia	16
26	Minnesota	24
13	Green Bay	10
27	San Francisco	19
13	Atlanta	16
3	Dallas	34
23	New Orleans	17
17	Los Angeles	16
27	Green Bay	28

SYMBOL

†—League leader

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Percival	0	25	25†	100
Carter	4	0	0	24
Gordon	4	0	0	24
Bull	3	0	0	18

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Concannon	143	71	715	51	5	9	49.7
Carter	122	55	769	50	4	5	45.1
Rakestraw	67	30	361	80	1	7	44.8

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Gordon	29	477	4	51	16.4
Piccolo	28	291	0	44	10.4
Denney	23	247	2	46	10.7
Wallace	19	281	2	27	14.8

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Sayers	138	865	2	63	6.2†
Bull	107	472	3	24	4.4
Piccolo	123	450	2	19	3.7
Carter	48	265	4	31	5.5

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
McRae	4	41	0	22	10.3
R. Taylor	3	96	1	96	32.0
Butkus	3	14	0	14	4.7

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Kilgore	35	1231	50	35.2
Green	27	1142	58	42.3

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Turner	9	19	0	12	2.1
Wallace	6	27	0	9	4.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Sayers	17	461	0	46	27.1
Turner	20	363	0	33	18.2

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Concannon, Jack	6-2	205	26	6	Boston College
Carter, Virgil	6-1	185	23	2	Brigham Young
Douglass, Bobby	6-3	215	21	1	Kansas

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Sayers, Gale	6-0	198	26	5	Kansas
Bull, Ronnie	6-0	200	29	8	Baylor
Kurek, Ralph	6-2	210	26	5	Wisconsin
Piccolo, Brian	6-0	205	25	5	Wake Forest
Hull, Mike	6-3	220	24	2	Southern California
Livingston, Andy	6-1	230	24	5	Phoenix J.C.
Montgomery, Ross	6-3	220	21	1	Texas Christian

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Gordon, Dick (W)	5-11	190	25	5	Michigan State
Wallace, Bob (W)	6-3	211	23	2	Texas-El Paso
Ogden, Ray (T-W)	6-5	225	27	5	Alabama
Denney, Austin (T)	6-2	229	25	3	Tennessee
Jones, Bob (W)	6-4	196	24	3	San Diego State
Turner, Cecil (W)	5-10	170	25	2	California Poly
Winegardner, Jim (T)	6-4	230	21	1	Notre Dame

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jackson, Randy (T)	6-5	245	25	3	Florida
Cadile, Jim (G)	6-3	240	29	8	San Jose State
Pyle, Mike (C)	6-3	250	30	9	Yale
Seals, George (G)	6-3	270	26	6	Missouri
Wetoska, Bob (T)	6-3	240	32	10	Notre Dame
Mayes, Rufus (T)	6-5	255	21	1	Ohio State
Kriewald, Doug (G)	6-4	245	24	3	West Texas State
Mass, Wayne (T)	6-4	245	23	2	Clemson

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Percival, Mac	6-4	220	29	3	Texas Tech
Green, Bobby Joe	5-11	175	33	10	Florida

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Phillips, Loyd (E)	6-3	240	24	3	Arkansas
Cornish, Frank (T)	6-6	300	25	4	Grambling
Evey, Dick (T)	6-4	245	28	6	Tennessee
O'Bradovich, Ed (E)	6-3	255	29	8	Illinois
Amsler, Marty (E)	6-5	255	26	2	Evansville
Holman, Willie (E)	6-4	250	24	2	South Carolina State
Johnson, John (T)	6-5	260	28	7	Indiana

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Buffone, Doug (O)	6-3	230	25	4	Louisville
Butkus, Dick (M)	6-3	245	26	5	Illinois
Reilly, Mike (O-M)	6-2	238	27	6	Iowa
Kuechenberg, Rudy (O)	6-2	215	26	3	Purdue
Pride, Dan (O)	6-3	225	26	2	Jackson State

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
McRae, Bennie	6-0	180	29	8	Michigan
Taylor, Joe	6-1	200	28	3	North Carolina A&T
Calland, Lee	6-0	190	28	7	Louisville
Gentry, Curtiss	6-0	185	28	4	Maryland State

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Taylor, Rosey (W)	5-11	186	32	9	Grambling
Hazelton, Major (S)	6-1	185	25	2	Florida A&M
Greenlee, Tom (W-S)	6-0	205	23	1	Washington
Lyle, Garry (S)	6-2	198	23	2	George Washington

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side "Free" Safety

A scramble here between more experienced Concannon and victory-inspiring Carter, both coming off injuries. Neither is ace passer, each likes to run. Douglass same, could be runner. PERF. QT.: 4.

Sayers is game breaker, most feared in football if knee is all better. Runs inside, outside, catches passes, returns kicks. Club in '68 was top in running, worst in passing, which tells all. Would help if Sayers had running accomplice. Veteran Bull likely to be the other runner again, although Piccolo showed flashes after Sayers' injury. Kurek is plugger. Livingston, who had talent, is unreliable. Hull disappointed, Montgomery could excel. PERF. QT.: 2.

There is no real threat here to blend with outstanding running provided by Gale Sayers. Makes it an incomplete offense. Gordon runs fast and gets open, but handicapped by size. He's only one with any experience. Wallace likely will play opposite side and has size, but lacks background. Jones or Turner could take that post away. Ogden has size to challenge ordinary Denny at tight end, and speed for use wide. Winegardner is unknown. PERF. QT.: 5.

A tough, capable unit manned by veterans. It opens the holes and blocks on the sweeps for Sayers. Seals is standout guard, handles toughest pass rushing tackles. Wetoska and Jackson are fine tackles. Pyle leads from center spot and Cadile is capable guard. Mayes can be a blocking star, could play as rookie on most clubs, but not likely with this group. Mass is a rugged reserve, but has learning to do. Kriewald is an excellent functionary. A tested blocker could be used in trade for receiver. PERF. QT.: 2.

Percival NFL's ace kicker, with knack of winning games with long distance field goals. Green punts well if he's recovered. PERF. QT.: 1.

The Bears gave up too many points last year and the trend could continue. The line doesn't reach its potential. O'Bradovich rushes well and Amsler should regain a job after injury. Phillips has not done all expected of him, but still has the promise. Evey is the steadiest of the front four, a fine rusher, fine against the run. Cornish, massive, has been lethargic, never making full use of his poundage. Holman and Johnson are good enough in reserve. PERF. QT.: 4.

They like to blitz with Butkus the All-Pro middle linebacker a ferocious man for centers and QBs to cope with. An all-around good unit. Buffone guards the flank well while Butkus is all over. Reilly or Kuechenberg will be reliable outside. Group could be over-burdened due to line, backfield deficiencies. Pride inexperienced. PERF. QT.: 3.

Like to bump receivers at line, dangerous tactic that could cause beatings deep. McRae excels at this and at coverage. Taylor and Gentry have had coverage troubles. Newcomer Calland, picked up in trade, might get right corner job. Good interception man. PERF. QT.: 3.

Slot formations confuse Bears. With Rich Petitbon gone, there should be more trouble. Taylor is fine against run, adequate on passes. Hazelton or Greenlee could be strong safety. Lyle, ex-end, asked for trial at strong side. PERF. QT.: 4.

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The CORD SPORTFACTS Series offers you a golden opportunity to display your sports knowledge and win \$500 cash. Just fill out our SPORTFACTS Triangle, and you can win the \$500 cash prize! Not only may you win this money, but you get a chance to test your football knowledge against the experts'—and besides, you'd be trying to figure out the answers to the SPORTFACTS Triangle's questions for yourself and your friends . . . for free. So try your hand—and your football knowledge—against fellow fans, and the \$500 can be yours! Remember to read the rules below before completing the SPORTFACTS Triangle. Remember, too, that there's no hurry. You don't have to enter this contest until the races for team and individual honors have taken shape. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, Dec. 5, 1969. And the winner??? The \$500-richer SPORTFACTS fan will be notified by telegram within 21 days of the time that the correct answers to the SPORTFACTS Triangle's questions become official.

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for correctly
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Player for 1969

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for 1969

Name the NFL interception leader for 1969

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National
League
Champion

American
League
Champion

National League
Eastern Division
Winner

National League
Western Division
Winner

American League
Eastern Division
Winner

American League
Western Division
Winner

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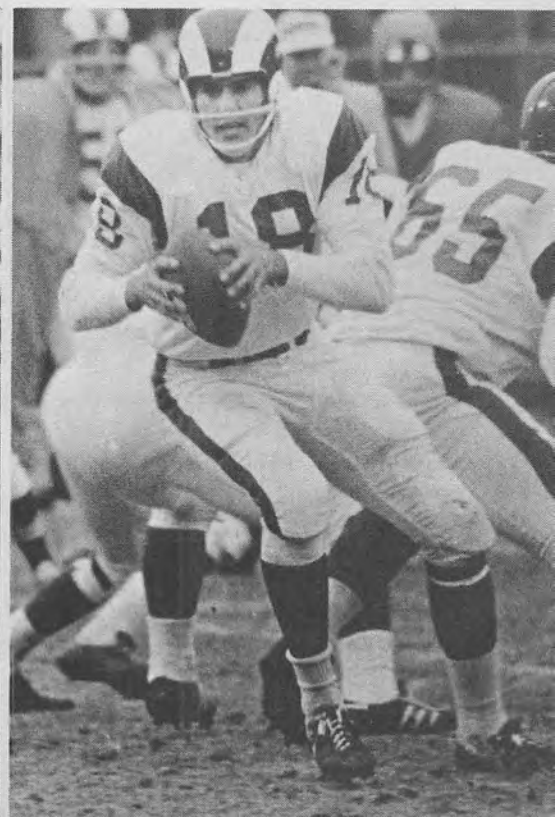


By Tom Mack
Guard
Los Angeles Rams



FRUSTRATION IN THE LINE OF DUTY

A pro lineman had better get used to doing his job without publicity, the star guard of the Rams writes



Tom Mack, 65, the author of this story, is the left guard for the Los Angeles Rams. In the photos on these pages you can see him in action, leading Les Josephson, 34, and Tommy Mason, 20, pulling out on a sweep and protecting quarterback Roman Gabriel, 18.



Tom Mack is not a Sunday's hero. He is an offensive lineman, the left guard of the Los Angeles Rams, and blockers do not generally become heroes.

Yet football teams know how valuable offensive linemen are. When Mack finished playing for Michigan, the Rams made him their first draft choice and he was the second player taken in the entire NFL draft. (Atlanta took Tommy Nobis before him.) Mack has become a mainstay on one of the better protecting and blocking lines in professional football.

In this article, Mack tells of the frustrations of being an offensive lineman—the desire for recognition and stature, the lack of publicity—and he tells of some of the techniques not noticed by the average fan, who keeps his eyes on the ball.

So turn the page and begin reading Tom Mack's own story.



Mack mentions under-publicized players, men who do a good job but aren't written about. From top in the left column are Fred Miller, Baltimore; John Niland, Dallas; Howard Mudd, San Francisco (an exception to the rule); and Ken Iman, Los Angeles. In the right column you see, again from the top, Gale Gillingham, Green Bay; Pete Case, New York; Joe Scibelli, Los Angeles; and Ed Flanagan, Detroit. Among the better publicized defensive players are the Rams' own Fearsome Foursome, from left across the top: Merlin Olsen, Lamar Lundy, Deacon Jones and Roger Brown.



The sportswriters have a hard time writing about a block. I know this. A block is not something like a shoe-string tackle out in the open or a diving catch. A block is a block.

Yet a block can protect the quarterback long enough for him to get the ball into the air so the receiver has a chance to make the diving catch. So, for offensive linemen, it becomes frustrating, not annoying so much, but a frustration because our work goes unpublicized.

For instance, on Sunday I can have my best game. I know I made key blocks and helped win the game and it's not mentioned in the paper. That's frustrating.

This is something all offensive linemen feel, not only me. There are good young guards in the NFL—John Niland with Dallas and I think Gale Gillingham with Green Bay is another. A lot of those in the East I can't tell you about because I haven't seen that much of them, and unfortunately, I don't read anything about them. I've heard that Pete Case of New York is good. Howard Mudd of the 49ers is something of an exception. He gets a lot of publicity and he does a good job. Another who does a good job and doesn't get any is Joe Scibelli, who plays right guard opposite me on the Rams.

It's the same for centers. Mick Tingelhoff of the Vikings seems to be All-Pro every year. He does a good job. But I know there are other centers around. I know they don't get much publicity. I mean players like Ken Iman, who plays next to me with the Rams and helps me so much, and Ed Flanagan with Detroit.

The best known offensive lineman in the business was Jerry Kramer, who was with the Packers until this year. He broke through this publicity barrier, partly because he was with Green Bay and led those sweeps. The sweeps are the only chance a guard gets to be noticed.

There is a very simple reason why offensive linemen can go through their careers anonymously. You're away





from contact with the ball. The best example is the public address announcer on any play. He'll announce the quarterback and the receiver on a pass, or the guy who carried the ball and the guy on the other team who tackled him. But he seldom mentions the guy who wasn't near the ball, but might have made the play go—the blocker.

Anybody on offense can get the ball, except the offensive lineman. But anybody on defense can make the tackle. That's one reason I like to be on some of our special teams. With the Rams I play on the punting team and I love to get the tackle. It gives me a chance to be reckless and rush downhill and get a ball carrier. It's a chance to have the average fan notice you. It's a chance to break out of obscurity.

Actually, I'm happier being a guard than a tackle because I get the chance to run on sweeps.

Television, incidentally, is starting to come around in this respect. Last year some of the linemen started getting credit on TV—they're now giving some isolated coverage to the blockers.

The lack of coverage is something the blockers can't resent. We'd like to have it, but you go into football as an offensive lineman without the expectation that you'll get publicity. You realize that before you get involved, that you can't figure to get publicity like a quarterback. But it would help your ego to get it and it would help your contract. All you can do is say to yourself, "I'm playing a good game."

So we're asked what motivates the man who has to block on every play and rarely gets attention for his work? To me, it's individual pride, the desire to do the best possible job, to help the Rams win. My teammates know this, they know when you're doing a good job. All linemen want to be first team All-Pro. This is the only thing to go after because then you know you're the best.

There are defensive linemen, too, who don't get their share of publicity.

But a lot of them do. Our defensive line—the Fearsome Foursome—is the best in the league. All of those guys—Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen, Roger Brown and Lamar Lundy—are well known because they are good. I have opponents who are good but who aren't so well known. Dick Evey of the Bears does a good job. It's hard to say he's underrated, but I know he doesn't get much publicity. Another guy I play against, Fred Miller of the Colts, also does a good job, but doesn't get written about much.

I don't want to get into saying too much about individual defensive tackles because of some advice Merlin Olsen once gave me. He told me never to rate a player publicly as good or bad. He did once in an article and found out that both the good and bad players were ready for good games against him the next time.

Publicity for offensive linemen being as it is, I don't think many football fans are aware of the job a guard tries to do. Basically the idea in pass blocking is to neutralize the charge. Most defensive linemen like to use hands, to get you off balance. Some like to head slap you in the helmet to stun you. I remember the first game I played as a starter was against Detroit in 1966 and I was against a man who's now a teammate, and I'm glad of that, Roger Brown. Roger head slapped me about 30 times that day and I was practically goofy when it was over.

Other defensive tackles like to grab your shoulders and force you to commit yourself one way or the other. They actually are trying to pull you sideways. A third method is used by defensive tackles who are big enough. What they try to do is run right over you, to overpower you. Some mix up the moves—head and body fakes, shadow box. After a while, you get ideas of all their general likes and dislikes.

But you can't underrate anybody just because he lacks publicity.

George Allen, our coach, of course has a game plan for every Sunday. But then I'll try to develop my own game

plan for myself based on the man who'll be across from me. I plan the way I'll try to block him, on runs and on passes. In our movies, I'll study his moves. Then on Sunday I'll try to take away those moves. It's like a guessing game. Involved in this is awareness of the situation—the down and position of the ball. Really, there isn't that much difference in abilities in the NFL. All the players are good. I think a lot of this becomes mental, it depends on who's using his head.

Another question asked is if I might block differently for different runners. I don't make a conscious effort to do this, whether Dick Bass, or Willie Ellison, or Tommy Mason, or Les Josephson is called to carry on a particular play. I might be a little more aware of Bass because he's the type who might break away on a second effort so I can't let down after the first block.

Mason and Ellison break well off a block. This is a big thing to a lineman. It's frustrating to have a back run right into where the lineman is blocking and have the blocked defensive man tackle the runner. This is one time the blocker can be noticed and it makes you look like a dummy. It's a little bit irritating when it happens.

With Bob Brown joining us this year—and he's another exception to the no publicity rule—the Rams should have very strong protection for Roman Gabriel. Brown and Charlie Cowan have both been right tackles, but Charlie is supposed to be moved to left tackle now. This is an adjustment and it will be somewhat of a problem.

There's different orientation. In my case, for instance, guards are more conscious of their inside. As the left guard, I'm more conscious of my right side. But actually, Cowan has played the left side before and is orientated that way, too. He was the left guard before I joined the Rams. His move will mean an adjustment for me, too. You get used to the guy playing next to you, you learn his tendencies and habits. It helps to play a couple of years with a man. And I'm looking ahead to many years alongside Charlie.



NFL

FIRST WEEK

(SUNDAY, SEPT. 21)

_____ Chicago at Green Bay _____
_____ Cleveland at Philadelphia _____
_____ Detroit at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Los Angeles at Baltimore _____
_____ Minnesota at New York _____
_____ St. Louis at Dallas _____
_____ San Francisco at Atlanta _____
_____ Washington at New Orleans _____

SECOND WEEK

(SUNDAY, SEPT. 28)

_____ Atlanta at Los Angeles _____
_____ Baltimore at Minnesota _____
_____ Chicago at St. Louis _____
_____ Dallas at New Orleans _____
_____ New York at Detroit _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Philadelphia _____
_____ San Francisco vs. Green Bay
(at Milwaukee) _____
_____ Washington at Cleveland _____

THIRD WEEK

(SUNDAY, OCT. 5)

_____ Baltimore at Atlanta _____
_____ Chicago at New York _____
_____ Dallas at Philadelphia _____
_____ Detroit at Cleveland _____
_____ Green Bay at Minnesota _____
_____ New Orleans at Los Angeles _____
_____ St. Louis at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Washington at San Francisco _____

FOURTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, OCT. 12)

_____ Cleveland at New Orleans _____
_____ Dallas at Atlanta _____
_____ Green Bay at Detroit _____
_____ Los Angeles at San Francisco _____
_____ Minnesota at Chicago _____
_____ Philadelphia at Baltimore _____
_____ Pittsburgh at New York _____
_____ St. Louis at Washington _____

PLAYOFFS

Eastern Championship

_____ vs. _____

Western Championship

_____ vs. _____

NFL Championship

_____ vs. _____

Super Bowl

_____ vs. _____

SEASON-LONG SCHEDULE- SCORECARD, NFL/AFL

FIFTH WEEK

(SATURDAY, OCT. 18)

_____ Pittsburgh at Cleveland _____
(SUNDAY, OCT. 19)
_____ Atlanta at San Francisco _____
_____ Baltimore at New Orleans _____
_____ Chicago at Detroit _____
_____ Green Bay at Los Angeles _____
_____ Minnesota at St. Louis _____
_____ New York at Washington _____
_____ Philadelphia at Dallas _____

SIXTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, OCT. 26)

_____ Atlanta at Green Bay _____
_____ Detroit at Minnesota _____
_____ Los Angeles at Chicago _____
_____ New Orleans at Philadelphia _____
_____ St. Louis at Cleveland _____
_____ San Francisco at Baltimore _____
_____ Washington at Pittsburgh _____

(MONDAY, OCT. 27)

_____ New York at Dallas _____

SEVENTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, NOV. 2)

_____ Chicago at Minnesota _____
_____ Dallas at Cleveland _____
_____ Detroit at San Francisco _____
_____ Green Bay at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Los Angeles at Atlanta _____
_____ New Orleans at St. Louis _____
_____ Philadelphia at New York _____
_____ Washington at Baltimore _____

EIGHTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, NOV. 9)

_____ Atlanta at Detroit _____
_____ Cleveland at Minnesota _____
_____ Green Bay at Baltimore _____
_____ New Orleans at Dallas _____
_____ New York at St. Louis _____
_____ Philadelphia at Washington _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Chicago _____
_____ San Francisco at Los Angeles _____

NINTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, NOV. 16)

_____ Baltimore at San Francisco _____
_____ Chicago at Atlanta _____
_____ Cleveland at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Dallas at Washington _____
_____ Los Angeles at Philadelphia _____
_____ Minnesota vs. Green Bay
(at Milwaukee) _____
_____ New Orleans at New York _____
_____ St. Louis at Detroit _____

TENTH WEEK

(SUNDAY, NOV. 23)

_____ Atlanta at Washington _____
_____ Baltimore at Chicago _____
_____ Dallas at Los Angeles _____
_____ Detroit at Green Bay _____
_____ New York at Cleveland _____
_____ Philadelphia at St. Louis _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Minnesota _____
_____ San Francisco at New Orleans _____

ELEVENTH WEEK

(THURSDAY, NOV. 27)

_____ Minnesota at Detroit _____
_____ San Francisco at Dallas _____

(SUNDAY, NOV. 30)

_____ Atlanta at Baltimore _____
_____ Cleveland at Chicago _____
_____ Los Angeles at Washington _____
_____ New York vs. Green Bay
(at Milwaukee) _____
_____ Philadelphia at New Orleans _____
_____ Pittsburgh at St. Louis _____

TWELFTH WEEK

(SATURDAY, DEC. 6)

_____ Chicago at San Francisco _____

(SUNDAY, DEC. 7)

_____ Dallas at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Detroit at Baltimore _____
_____ Green Bay at Cleveland _____
_____ Minnesota at Los Angeles _____
_____ New Orleans at Atlanta _____
_____ St. Louis at New York _____
_____ Washington at Philadelphia _____

THIRTEENTH WEEK**(SATURDAY, DEC. 13)**

_____ Baltimore at Dallas _____

(SUNDAY, DEC. 14)

_____ Atlanta at Philadelphia _____

_____ Cleveland at St. Louis _____

_____ Green Bay at Chicago _____

_____ Los Angeles at Detroit _____

_____ New Orleans at Washington _____

_____ New York at Pittsburgh _____

_____ San Francisco at Minnesota _____

FOURTEENTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, DEC. 21)**

_____ Baltimore at Los Angeles _____

_____ Cleveland at New York _____

_____ Detroit at Chicago _____

_____ Minnesota at Atlanta _____

_____ Philadelphia at San Francisco _____

_____ Pittsburgh at New Orleans _____

_____ St. Louis at Green Bay _____

_____ Washington at Dallas _____

AFL**FIRST WEEK****(SUNDAY, SEPT. 14)**

_____ Boston at Denver _____

_____ Houston at Oakland _____

_____ Kansas City at San Diego _____

_____ Miami at Cincinnati _____

_____ New York at Buffalo _____

SECOND WEEK**(SATURDAY, SEPT. 20)**

_____ Miami at Oakland _____

(SUNDAY, SEPT. 21)

_____ Houston at Buffalo _____

_____ Kansas City at Boston _____

_____ New York at Denver _____

_____ San Diego at Cincinnati _____

THIRD WEEK**(SUNDAY, SEPT. 28)**

_____ Denver at Buffalo _____

_____ Kansas City at Cincinnati _____

_____ Miami at Houston _____

_____ New York at San Diego _____

_____ Oakland at Boston _____

FOURTH WEEK**(SATURDAY, OCT. 4)**

_____ Oakland at Miami _____

(SUNDAY, OCT. 5)

_____ Boston at New York _____

_____ Buffalo at Houston _____

_____ Cincinnati at San Diego _____

_____ Kansas City at Denver _____

FIFTH WEEK**(SATURDAY, OCT. 11)**

_____ Boston at Buffalo _____

_____ Cincinnati at New York _____

_____ San Diego at Miami _____

(SUNDAY, OCT. 12)

_____ Houston at Kansas City _____

_____ Oakland at Denver _____

SIXTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, OCT. 19)**

_____ Buffalo at Oakland _____

_____ Denver at Cincinnati _____

_____ Houston at New York _____

_____ Miami at Kansas City _____

_____ San Diego at Boston _____

SEVENTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, OCT. 26)**

_____ Buffalo at Miami _____

_____ Cincinnati at Kansas City _____

_____ Denver at Houston _____

_____ New York at Boston _____

_____ Oakland at San Diego _____

EIGHTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, NOV. 2)**

_____ Houston at Boston _____

_____ Kansas City at Buffalo _____

_____ Miami at New York _____

_____ Oakland at Cincinnati _____

_____ San Diego at Denver _____

NINTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, NOV. 9)**

_____ Buffalo at New York _____

_____ Cincinnati at Houston _____

_____ Denver at Oakland _____

_____ Miami at Boston _____

_____ San Diego at Kansas City _____

TENTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, NOV. 16)**

_____ Boston at Cincinnati _____

_____ Houston at Denver _____

_____ Kansas City at New York _____

_____ Miami at Buffalo _____

_____ San Diego at Oakland _____

ELEVENTH WEEK**(SUNDAY, NOV. 23)**

_____ Buffalo at Boston _____

_____ Denver at San Diego _____

_____ Houston at Miami _____

_____ New York at Cincinnati _____

_____ Oakland at Kansas City _____

TWELFTH WEEK**(THURSDAY, NOV. 27)**

_____ Denver at Kansas City _____

_____ San Diego at Houston _____

(SUNDAY, NOV. 30)

_____ Boston vs. Miami (at Tampa) _____

_____ Cincinnati at Buffalo _____

_____ Oakland at New York _____

THIRTEENTH WEEK**(SATURDAY, DEC. 6)**

_____ New York at Houston _____

(SUNDAY, DEC. 7)

_____ Boston at San Diego _____

_____ Buffalo at Kansas City _____

_____ Cincinnati at Oakland _____

_____ Denver at Miami _____

FOURTEENTH WEEK**(SATURDAY, DEC. 13)**

_____ Kansas City at Oakland _____

(SUNDAY, DEC. 14)

_____ Boston at Houston _____

_____ Buffalo at San Diego _____

_____ Cincinnati at Denver _____

_____ New York at Miami _____

PLAYOFFS**Inter-Divisional**

_____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____

AFL Championship

_____ vs. _____

Super Bowl

_____ vs. _____

QUARTERBACK, PAC

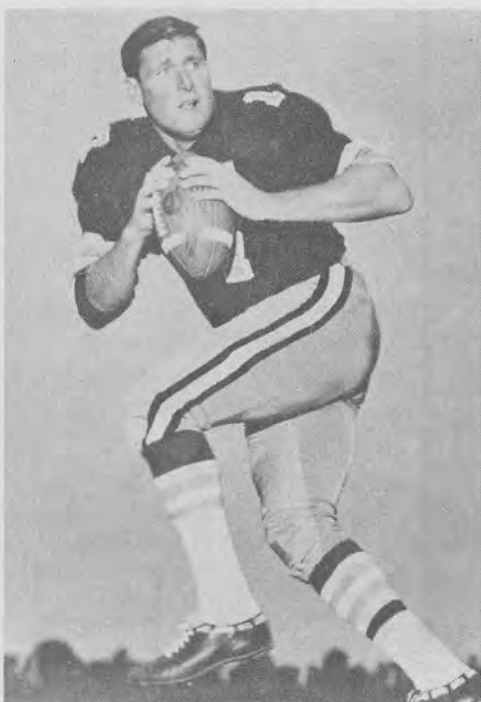


Earl Morrall knows just what it is like. The coach calls him in and says, "I'm sorry Earl, but we've just traded you to _____ (fill in your own). We didn't want to do it." So Earl and Jane Morrall pack up and tote off the kids and head for another town, to a new team.

Last August when Allie Sherman called him in to tell him he'd been traded from the New York Giants to the Baltimore Colts, it was the fourth time for Earl Morrall. He's traveled from the San Francisco 49ers to the Pittsburgh Steelers to the Detroit Lions to New York and then to some heroism in Baltimore.

It is time somebody formed one of those travel clubs for pro quarterbacks. Morrall isn't alone in his adventures. Quarterbacks are the most tradeable commodities in pro football. They are traded more than any other players. They are the most precious and most nomadic people in this violent sport.

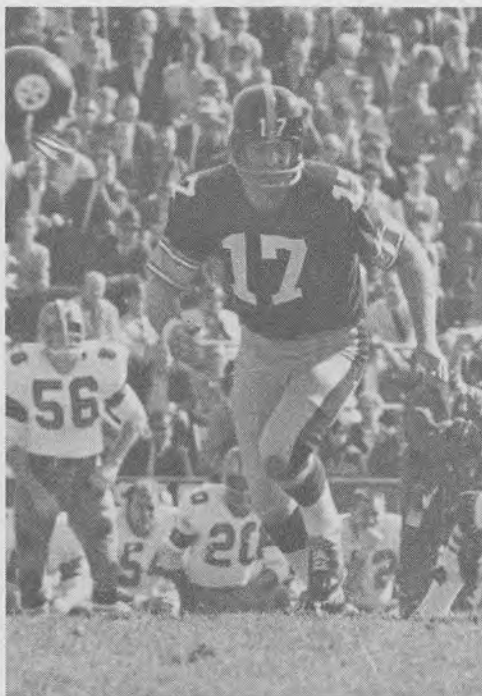
Want to argue? Going into the 1969 season, there are exactly five teams of the 26 in the NFL-AFL conglomerate that do not have at least one quarterback who was obtained via trade. That makes 21 teams with quarterbacks who were tutored and trained



All these quarterbacks have been traded during their careers. Top, left to right, is Bill Munson, Jack Concannon and Bill Nelsen. Bill Kilmer and Norm Snead are on the bottom row, again left to right.

K YOUR BAG!

The most traded commodity in pro football is the quarterback. Here's why passers are wildly thrown from city to city, and each team's QB roster tells who has been affected



These passers have also been sent packing. Left to right at top are Sonny Jurgensen, Dick Shiner and Joe Kapp. At bottom, left to right are Fran Tarkenton and Earl Morrall.

in other systems and then transferred. Not all are No. 1s. But more than a dozen teams will actually be guided and controlled by quarterbacks who were acquired on the open market.

On projection, 40 of the 71 quarterbacks who figure to be on the active rosters of the 26 clubs this year have been traded, or belonged to other clubs, during their careers. That's above 50 percent. It boils down this way:

NFL

ATLANTA—Randy Johnson (home grown), Bob Berry (via trade), Bruce Lemmerman (home grown).

BALTIMORE—John Uinitas (home grown, although drafted originally by Pittsburgh), Morrall (via trade), Jim Ward (home grown).

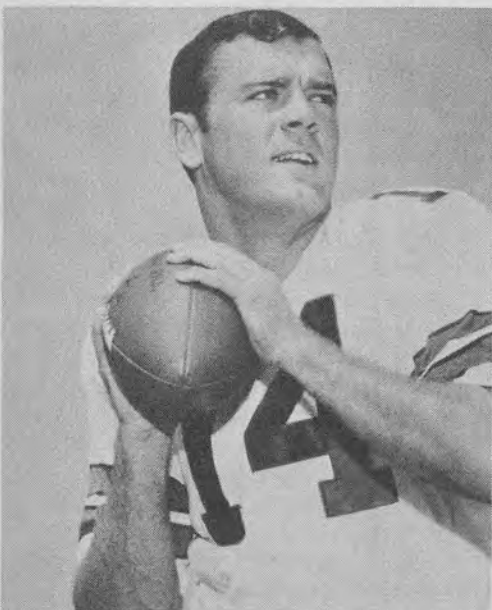
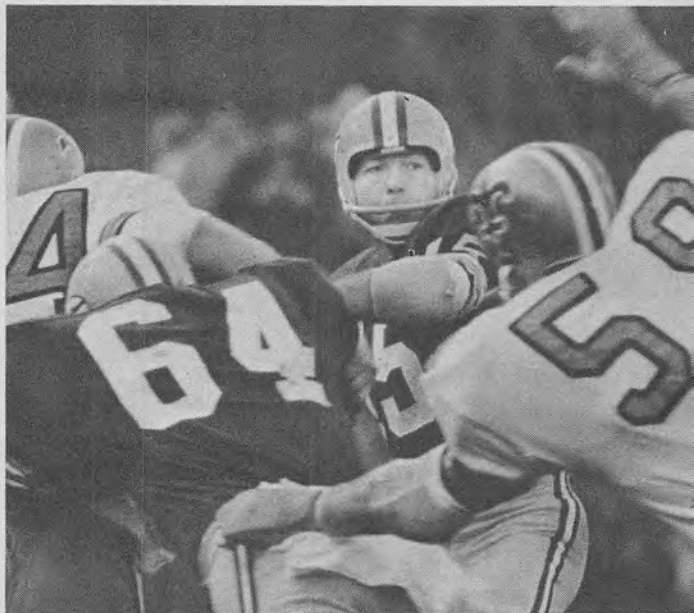
CHICAGO—Jack Concannon (via trade), Virgil Carter (home grown), Bobby Douglass (1969 draftee).

CLEVELAND—Bill Nelsen (via trade), Frank Ryan (via trade), Jerry Rhome (via trade).

DALLAS—Craig Morton (home grown), Roger Staubach (rookie).

DETROIT—Bill Munson (via trade), Greg Landry (home grown).

GREEN BAY—Bart Starr, Don Horn (both home grown).



All of these quarterbacks, except one, are the home grown variety, never having been traded. Top left is Roman Gabriel; top right is Jim Hart; center left is John Brodie; center right is Bart Starr; bottom left is Craig Morton; bottom right is Charley Johnson. The one exception in this group is at bottom center, Johnny Unitas. While he has always played for the Baltimore Colts, he was originally drafted out of college by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

LOS ANGELES—Roman Gabriel (home grown), Milt Plum (via trade), Karl Sweetan (via trade).

MINNESOTA—Joe Kapp (acquired from Canada), Gary Cuozzo (via trade), King Hill (via trade).

NEW ORLEANS—Bill Kilmer (via expansion veterans draft), Jim Ninowski (via trade), Ronny South (home grown).

NEW YORK—Fran Tarkenton (via trade), Gary Wood (home grown, but reacquired via trade), Gary Lane (via trade).

PHILADELPHIA—Norm Snead (via trade), John Huarte (free agent who had been traded within and eventually cut by the AFL).

PITTSBURGH—Dick Shiner (via trade), Kent Nix (via trade), Terry Hanratty (1969 draftee).

ST. LOUIS—Charley Johnson, Jim Hart (both home grown).

SAN FRANCISCO—John Brodie, George Mira, Steve Spurrier (all home grown).

WASHINGTON—Sonny Jurgensen (via trade), Gary Beban (via trade).

AFL

BOSTON—Mike Taliaferro (via trade), Tom Sherman (home grown), Kim Hammond (via trade).

BUFFALO—Jack Kemp (via waiver deal, previously traded in NFL), Tom Flores (via trade), Dan Darragh (home grown), Kay Stephenson (via trade).

CINCINNATI—Sam Wyche, Dewey Warren (both home grown), John Stofa (via trade), Greg Cook (1969 draftee).

DENVER—Steve Tensi (via trade), Pete Liske (signed from Canada), Marlin Briscoe (home grown).

HOUSTON—Pete Beathard (via trade), Don Trull (home grown, traded away, reacquired), Bob Davis (home grown).

KANSAS CITY—Len Dawson (picked up from NFL, previously traded in that league), Jacky Lee (via trade).

MIAMI—Bob Griese, Rick Norton (both home grown).

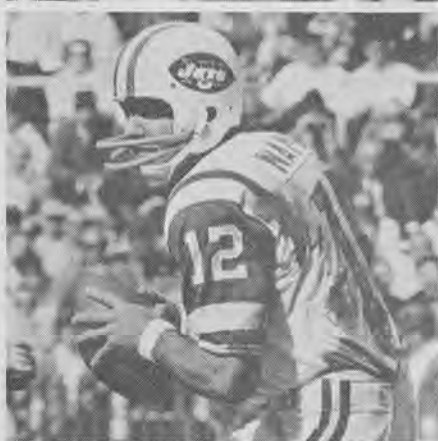
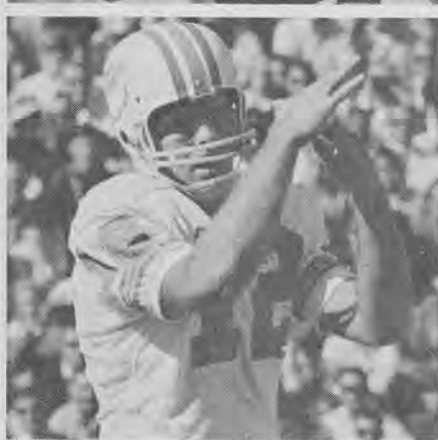
NEW YORK—Joe Namath (home grown), Babe Parilli (via trade), Al Woodall (1969 draftee).

OAKLAND—Daryle Lamonica (via trade), George Blanda (acquired after playing with other AFL, NFL clubs).

SAN DIEGO—John Hadl (home



AFLers who have been sent packing include Daryle Lamonica, top left, of the Oakland Raiders; Jack Kemp, top right, of the Buffalo Bills; Len Dawson, bottom left, of the Kansas City Chiefs, who spent time with some NFL clubs before the AFL was formed; and Pete Beathard of the Houston Oilers, who used to understudy Dawson.



Home grown AFL signal callers, from top, are John Hadl of the San Diego Chargers; Dewey Warren of the Cincinnati Bengals; Bob Griese of the Miami Dolphins; and, bottom, Joe Namath of the World Champion New York Jets. All but young Warren are starters for their teams.

grown), Jon Brittenum (via trade), Marty Domres (1969 draftee).

There are a number of valid reasons for this boom in quarterback dealing.

First, a quarterback, once he has absorbed a team's system, becomes impatient if he doesn't play.

"I can do a better job than that guy," he thinks quietly, watching the offense struggle while wearing phones on his head and relaying advice from upstairs to the playing QB. Then after a year or two, the disenchanted QB finally summons up the nerve to walk into the coach's office with the standard edict:

"Play me or trade me."

It's up to the coach then, who either plays the No. 2 or trades him. If he plays him, suddenly there is a disgruntled No. 1 who has to be traded. This is known as musical chairs.

A second reason is that most teams in professional football are not winners. Quarterback is the most sensitive position, the most critical. A team could figure, "If we just had a quarterback, we'd win it all. We have the rest." **EXAMPLES:** The Raiders two years ago. The Browns last year. Y.A. Tittle in the early 60s in New York.

So teams speculate in the quarterback market. It is a risky type of speculation, but it is indulged in perhaps 10 times annually.

A third reason would be acceptance. Quarterbacks get booed more than any other athletes in sports. They are booed more heavily and more often in their own towns. Fan acceptance isn't all that important, though. Acceptance by teammates is a more vital issue. For years the Lions were guided by Milt Plum. The team never could conjure up an offense and the defense complained. Alex Karras once threw his helmet at Plum across a dejected locker room. Joe Schmidt, before he became coach, had to be restrained from mangling Plum one Sunday. Then, in Schmidt's first year as a head coach, he had to make a decision on a quarterback and he decided on Plum. There were times when teammates heaped refuse into Plum's locker or spat into it. But after winning games, Plum managed to become one of the group and could socialize with his teammates.

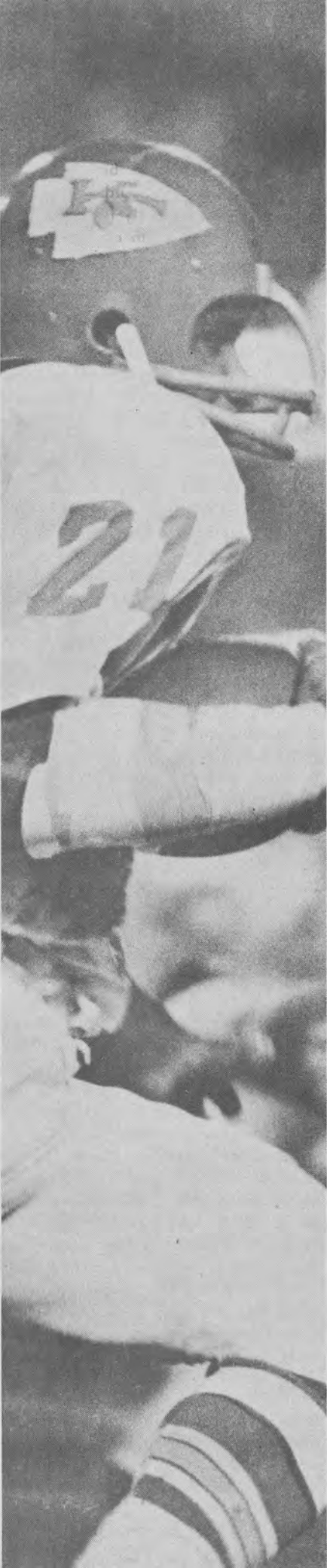
So a quarterback can be an outcast on his own ball club—and eventually has to be traded. Mostly he has to be traded so that the team can speculate on a new man acquired in the same trade. **EXAMPLES:** The Lions trade for Bill Munson in which the Rams had to have a backup in exchange and took Plum in the deal. The trade several years ago between the Eagles and Redskins, Sonny Jurgensen for Norm Snead, starter for starter.

The biggest trades of the 1960s involved quarterbacks. The Giants deal with the Vikings for Fran Tarkenton meant a payment of two first-round draft choices and one second choice. This actually involved a concession for a priority draft choice awarded the Giants in the NFL-AFL merger agreement. Gary Cuozzo, one of the play-me-or-trade-me quarterbacks, has been transferred twice in the last three years in No. 1 draft choice deals. Cuozzo was unhappy playing behind Unitas in Baltimore. So he went to the Saints for the No. 1 pick in the historic first common draft in 1967. In New Orleans he was beaten out by Bill Kilmer. So Cuozzo went again, to Minnesota, again with No. 1 draft choices involved.

Last year's biggest off-season trade was between the Lions and Rams. Munson was one of the play-me-or-trade-me men. Except he played out his option in Los Angeles so he could be a free agent and make his own deal. Munson's figuring was that he and Roman Gabriel were the same age and one would play and one would watch. When George Allen settled on Gabe, Munson's decision became firm. The Lions, long questing for a quarterback, made an offer of three players and their No. 1 draft choice for Munson and a third draft pick. Allen didn't want to make the trade. But he had no alternative. In another day Munson would be a free agent. So the LA coach traded with the Lions. But before the trade could be completed the Lions had to sign Munson to a contract, or he would have become a free agent anyway.

Daryle Lamonica was another quarterback who demanded to be traded. He suffered in Buffalo behind Jack Kemp. If you're going to have to sit on the bench, Buffalo is not the

continued on page 98



AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On the next 20 pages you'll find the most comprehensive coverage of the American Football League on a team-for-team basis that you'll see this year. Every team is not only covered in complete detail, but accompanying each team story is a personnel depth chart complete with the CORD SPORTFACTS Performance Quotient rating system. The system rates each unit of each team—quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, offensive line, kickers, etc. The best rating a unit can get is 1. That means it is the best, or tied for the best, in its division. Next best is 2, which stands for excellent. 3 equals good, 4 is fair and 5 stands for poor. The team with the lowest composite rating total figures to be the best in its division, of course, but some intangibles enter the picture, too. The teams appear in the order in which we predict they will finish the regular AFL campaign. Then come the playoffs, with the Eastern winner meeting the second place Western team and vice-versa. In these contests we see Kansas City beating the New York Jets and emerging victorious in the AFL finals over Oakland, which will have defeated Houston in the first round. Now turn the page and begin the most comprehensive AFL team coverage that will be published this entire season!

AFL WEST

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Prediction: First

Talk about tough acts to follow. John Madden is a jump and a half out of the junior-college coaching ranks and he's asked to take over a pro team that lost three regular season games in the last two years.

"Better I take over a good team than a poor one," philosophizes Madden. That's what he has, a good football team. Possibly the best in the AFL, the World Champion Jets notwithstanding.

The Raiders have a little bit of everything. A lot of many things, as a matter of fact. They have an established young quarterback in Daryle Lamonica, good running backs, one of the best offensive lines in the game, a sound defense and skilled specialists.

They also have that extra something in the clutch. When the Raiders met Kansas City in the Western Division playoff, Lamonica looked the Chiefs in the eye and threw five touchdown passes. When defensive tackle Tom Keating, among the best around, was lost for the season, unheralded Dan Birdwell had an All-League season and Carleton Oats moved into the lineup with competence. When ace cornerback Kent McCloughan tore up a knee, rookie George Atkinson did a smooth job replacing him. When outside linebackers Bill Laskey and Duane Benson were hurt, Gus Otto and rookie Ralph Oliver picked up their oars and stroked strongly.

It should lighten Madden's load that Keating, McCloughan, Laskey and Benson have been given medical clearance for '69.

The Raider offense will maintain the characteristics it has borne since Al Davis took over the club in '63. John Rauch added his refinements and Madden is expected to give it his touches. But it remains an intricate system with the emphasis on the forward pass.

In two seasons as a starter, Lamonica established himself as one of the best young quarterbacks in either

league. But as QBs go, he's still a kid and still learning the ins and outs of the Raiders' sometimes confusing system.

Oaklanders felt the club lacked two big elements before last season: a deep receiver and an outside runner.

Then Warren Wells developed into a superb deep catcher, scoring a dozen touchdowns. And, at mid-season, the Raiders unveiled halfback Charley Smith, who scorches the ground on a power sweep and incinerates linebackers coming out of the double wing.

Smith added a new dimension to the running game. Hewritt Dixon is a hard running, swift type who can catch the ball running out of the fullback slot. He played with one lame leg last year and still finished third among the league's ground gainers. Pete Banaszak and Roger Hagberg are reserves.

If no one gets hurt, the Raiders are in good shape with their receivers. Biletnikoff is the ideal flanker to play off against Wells. Warren is the streak and post guy, who can almost outrun the ball. Biletnikoff is cute, murderous on sideline patterns. Billy Cannon's blocking isn't thunderous, but there are a lot worse tight ends. He makes the occasional big catch. With Eldridge Dickey now a full-time quarterback and Bill Miller coaching in Buffalo, the wide reserves are depleted.

The line is the type every head coach wants—big, fairly young, versatile and deep. Jim Otto has been around since "Oakland Raiders" were dirty words. He's still the best center in the AFL, maybe in both leagues. Gene Upshaw should be acknowledged as a super guard one of these days. His pass blocking is catching up to his work on sweeps. Harry Schuh's tendency to pick up an occasional goofy penalty shouldn't distract from his all-around talents. His partner, Bob Svihus, is better than average, though not as strong as Schuh. If Wayne Hawkins feels the ravages of

his 10 years, Jim Harvey is ready to step in at guard. Arthur Shell, a sophomore pro, is going to be a good tackle. The best rookie is Stanford's George Buehler, a guard.

The Raiders insist Keating is 100 percent, but they still traded for Ray Jacobs, formerly of Miami, Denver and Houston and then drafted Art Thoms of Syracuse on the first round. Nothing like having a surplus of defensive tackles. Dan Birdwell and Ike Lassiter perform far above their partners, Ben Davidson and Carleton Oats. Davidson, for all his size, gets overpowered. Al Dotson is another seasoned hand here and Shell can fill in.

Laskey and Benson might have trouble unseating Oliver and Otto, which is a healthy situation for Madden. He coached the linebackers himself a year ago, so he shouldn't have too much trouble making decisions here. Dan Conners comes up with the vital interception or important fumble recovery besides calling a heady game at middle linebacker. Bill Budness is a capable understudy.

Joe Namath stung young cornerback George Atkinson in the league championship game in New York. It wasn't lack of talent, just lack of experience on Atkinson's part. He was playing too far off Don Maynard, giving him too much respect. But this kid isn't the vulnerable member of the Oakland pass defense. The AFL quarterbacks will tell you it's strong-side safety Rodger Bird, who doesn't have the speed to keep up with fleet tight ends. No problem at free safety since clever Dave Grayson switched from corner and led the league in interceptions.

Atkinson might lose his corner job back to McCloughan. If he does, George still will be a valuable punt and kickoff return man. He led the league in the latter category. In McCloughan's absence Willie Brown stole the headlines, plus a spot on the league All Star team.

AFL WEST

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Prediction: Second

Sometimes it sounds like a bad opera: A chorus of AFL coaches fingering Hank Stram as having the best personnel in the league and the Kansas City coach protesting that he has all sorts of liabilities. A little of both may be true.

In three or four places Stram is stronger than any other team, but his pass defense alone could take him out of the championship category. Hank admits his club will be better, but how much better can you get than 12-2 and still not win a title?

The encouraging thing to Kansas Citians is that while their team is obviously among the three most powerful in the AFL, it also is among the youngest. The offensive and defensive lines are an example. None of the defensive stars have yet hit 30. Ernie Ladd gets there this year, but he's not even a starter. On offense, center E.J. Holub is 31, but that should be no big liability. If seven knee operations couldn't finish him, a little age shouldn't.

If the Chiefs are to overcome a pass defense deficiency and move up to championship class, flanker Otis Taylor is the key man. At his best he's among the two or three finest receivers in the game. He zooms into the secondary. He has immense physical strength and he is tough. Last year he was hurt a bit and his interest flagged. Stram can't afford another season of disinterest.

Offensively the Chiefs became a much more conservative team, disdaining the explosive play for bread and butter stuff. Taylor's absences from the lineup might have been one explanation, but over-reliance on Jan Stenerud, the super kicker, and Len Dawson's aging passing arm are others.

At 34, Dawson's seems reluctant to unload on his passes as he did a few years ago. Joe Namath considers Dawson what he calls an "NFL-style quarterback." What he means is a passer

who throws nickle and dime patterns, even behind the line stuff, to his running backs and as a result has an inflated completion percentage. Dawson's completion percentage was 58.5, best in the AFL. His leading receiver was a back, Mike Garrett, whose catches averaged 10.9 yards.

Still, Lenny knows what it is all about. Few quarterbacks could operate the Chiefs' multi-faceted offense with his smoothness.

With KC throwing fewer passes than any team in the league, the Chief runners took up the slack with an average output of 159 yards per game. Their two little tanks, 5-9 Robert Holmes and 5-9 Mike Garrett, both have inside-outside speed and more than a bit of power. Neither seem durable enough to operate a ball-control offense, however, something Dawson might have to fall back on more often this year.

What isn't back of Garrett and Holmes is what worries Stram. Wendell Hayes, Bert Coan and Paul Lowe all are proven players, but Hayes has a questionable leg, Coan underwent springtime knee surgery and Lowe suffered a shoulder separation the first time he carried the ball in a Kansas City uniform. He's 32. The picture may be brightened if rookie Ed Podolak, an all-around player at Iowa, makes an immediate contribution.

In Jan Stenerud, the Chiefs have the strongest leg in football. Jim Turner of the Jets out-field-goaled him last year, but Jan tries more long-distance stuff. Stenerud is the type who wins championships.

Stram made a big decision during the off-season. He switched Fred Arbanas, the tight end whose impaired vision detracts from his pass-catching ability, to offensive tackle. Then he moved fullback Curtis McClinton, always a top receiver and blocker, to tight end to duel Reg Carolan for the No. 1 job. If McClinton isn't moved back to fullback in the event of prob-

lems with Hayes, Coan and Lowe, the switch could give the Chiefs another offensive edge. Besides Taylor, the wide receiving corps includes two fine youngsters, Gloster Richardson and Frank Pitts, and a bright little rookie, Tom Nettles.

The offensive line, already full of potential All-Pros, got another last year when guard Mo Moorman performed well as a rookie. Arbanas will have trouble moving either of the veteran tackles, Jim Tyrer or David Hill. Ed Budde is another top guard, particularly on straight-ahead stuff. Holub's position is fortified by the arrival of Jack Rudnay, a promising rookie center from Northwestern.

Defensively the Chiefs are strong except for the secondary. It's generally conceded around the AFL that Willie Lanier, Bobby Bell and Jim Lynch are the finest linebacking unit in the league. Lanier, in Stram's opinion, could eventually be the best in pro football. Bell is at the top of his game. Lynch, drafted as a middle linebacker, adapted himself to the outside duties. He makes the big play. Willie and Jim are just third-year men. The reserves get a bit thin. Chuck Hurston, the ex-defensive end, still is trying to learn the territory.

For two years Aaron Brown, one of the last of the big bonus babies, walked around in a football funk while the defensive line was missing one of its vital parts. Then last year Brown decided to play up to his potential and the KC rush line became one of the best. Jerry Mays plays a sound game and Buck Buchanan would be in the Merlin Olsen-Bob Lilly class if he was more aggressive. Ed Lothamer isn't a top pass rusher but he's strong and tough against the run. Ladd is the No. 1 sub. Stram claimed Curley Culp from Denver last year in a future-book move. Culp had been the Broncos first draft selection.

KCs fans are less concerned about their safeties than they are about the

Cont. on Page 103

1968 RECORD (12-3)

SYMBOL

†—League leader

26	Houston	21
19	New York	20
34	Denver	2
48	Miami	3
18	Buffalo	7
13	Cincinnati	3
24	Oakland	10
27	San Diego	20
21	Oakland	38
16	Cincinnati	9
31	Boston	17
24	Houston	10
40	San Diego	3
30	Denver	7
6	Oakland	41

(Western Division Playoff).

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Stenerud	0	39	30	129
Holmes	7	0	0	42
Richardson	6	0	0	36
Pitts	6	0	0	36
Garrett	6	0	0	36

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Dawson	224	131	2109	92	17	9	58.5
Lee	45	25	383	61	3	1	55.6

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Garrett	33	359	3	43	10.9
Pitts	30	655	6	90	21.8
Richardson	22	494	6	92	22.5
Taylor	20	420	4	67	21.0

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Robinson	6	40	0	16	6.7
Bell	5	95	0	50	19.0
Mitchell	5	46	0	46	9.2

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Wilson	63	2841	70	45.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Smith	18	270	1	80	15.0†
Sellers	7	129	1	76	18.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Smith	23	549	0	37	23.9
Coan	5	100	0	31	20.0

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Dawson, Len	6-0	190	34	13	Purdue
Lee, Jacky	6-1	185	30	10	Cincinnati
Livingston, Mike	6-3	205	23	2	Southern Methodist

RUNNING BACKS					
Holmes, Robert	5-9	220	23	2	Southern
Garrett, Mike	5-9	200	25	4	Southern California
Hayes, Wendell	6-1	220	27	5	Humboldt State
Lowe, Paul	6-0	205	32	10	Oregon State
Coan, Bert	6-4	220	29	8	Kansas
Podolak, Ed	6-1	204	22	1	Iowa

RECEIVERS					
Taylor, Otis (W)	6-3	215	27	5	Prairie View
Pitts, Frank (W)	6-2	199	25	5	Southern
Carolan, Reg (T)	6-6	240	29	8	Idaho
Richardson, Gloster (W)	6-0	200	26	3	Jackson State
McClinton, Curtis (T)	6-3	227	29	8	Kansas
Stroud, Morris (T)	6-8	235	23	1	Clark
Nettles, Tom (W)	5-11	176	24	1	San Diego State

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker

(T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Tyrer, Jim (T)	6-6	275	30	9	Ohio State
Hill, David (T)	6-5	260	28	7	Auburn
Budde, Ed (G)	6-5	260	28	7	Michigan State
Moorman, Maurice (G)	6-5	252	24	2	Texas A&M
Holub, E. J. (C)	6-4	236	31	9	Texas Tech
Arbanas, Fred (T)	6-3	240	30	9	Michigan State
Daney, George (G)	6-4	240	22	2	Texas-El Paso
King, Clanton (T)	6-2	250	23	1	Purdue
Rudnay, Jack (C)	6-3	240	21	1	Northwestern

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

PLACEMENT KICKER					
Stenerud, Jan	6-2	187	26	3	Montana State

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Mays, Jerry (E)	6-4	252	29	9	Southern Methodist
Brown, Aaron (E)	6-5	265	25	3	Minnesota
Buchanan, Buck (T)	6-7	287	29	7	Grambling
Lothamer, Ed (T)	6-5	270	26	6	Michigan State
Trosch, Gene (E)	6-7	277	24	2	Miami
Ladd, Ernie (T)	6-9	290	30	9	Grambling
Prudhomme, Remi (T)	6-4	250	27	4	Louisiana State
Culp, Curley (T)	6-1	265	23	2	Arizona State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS					
Bell, Bobby (O)	6-4	228	29	7	Minnesota
Lynch, Jim (O)	6-1	235	24	3	Notre Dame
Lanier, Willie (M)	6-1	245	24	3	Morgan State
Hurston, Chuck (O)	6-6	240	26	5	Auburn
Stein, Bob (O)	6-3	235	21	1	Minnesota
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Thomas, Emmitt	6-2	192	26	4	Bishop
Marsalis, Jim	5-11	194	24	1	Tennessee State
Sellers, Goldie	6-2	198	27	4	Grambling
Mitchell, Willie	6-0	185	29	6	Tennessee State

SAFETIES					
Kearney, Jim (S)	6-2	206	26	5	Prairie View
Robinson, John (W)	6-1	205	31	10	Louisiana State
Belser, Ceaser (S)	6-0	212	24	2	Arkansas AM&N
Ply, Bobby (W)	6-1	190	29	7	Baylor
Smith, Noland (W)	5-6	154	25	3	Tennessee State

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Chiefs probably will go as far as Lenny can take them. It may be far enough if he gets a bit more daring. Hank Stram still considers Lee a good prospect, even at 30. Livingston is for the future. PERF. QT.: 3.

Sometimes it looks like the midget league with 5-9 Holmes and 5-9 Garrett lined up together, but they're plenty effective. Holmes was an anonymous rookie at start, AFL's second-ranked ball carrier at finish. Mike among top halfbacks. Podolak will get a lot of work if Hayes, Lowe and Coan can't go, which is a possibility. Lowe and Coan had surgery. Hayes a slow healer. PERF. QT.: 3.

Taylor is the team's key man. What the Chiefs need is a repeat of the season he had when they won the AFL title three years ago. Otis was hampered by minor ailments in '68. Richardson and Pitts smoothed out their bumps in his absence. Big project is finding a tight end successor to Fred Arbanas, who was switched to interior line. Carolan has inside track but ex-fullback McClinton could win it. Nettles small but skilled. Stroud has physical potential. PERF. QT.: 3.

All but Moorman, who started as a rookie, have long pro experience. Holub making vital increase in his weight. He played at linebacker's size after last year's switch to center. Tyrer and Budde still tops. Most clubs would like to have Hill, an underrated tackle. Arbanas was efficient blocker at tight end. If he can make move, he should help at either tackle or guard. Daney, like Moorman, was a No. 1 draftee. He should play somewhere soon. Rudnay may be the young center Chiefs have long sought to develop. He was an iron man at Northwestern. King played several positions at Purdue. PERF. QT.: 2.

Strongest in game. 30 of 40 in '68. PERF. QT.: 1.

The envy of the AFL. How many teams have a Ladd sitting on their bench? Buchanan is an authentic superstar. Dynamic Mays is a fine pass rusher, firm leader. Lothamer straightened out health difficulties and had a good year. Brown produced at last. He had frittered away two years as a fullback and tight end. Stram feels Culp is still a fine prospect. Curley was cut by Denver, who drafted him first last year. Prudhomme fills in all along offensive line, as well as on defense. Trosch a puzzle. PERF. QT.: 2.

Lynch and Lanier were mere sophomores, but they still made up two-thirds of the league's best linebacking unit. Lynch is playing out of position, too. Normally, he's a middle backer. Lanier potentially the league's best. Bell ranks behind only George Webster of Houston as an outside man. Stein may stay in law school. PERF. QT.: 2.

Trouble, trouble, right here in Kansas City. Corners surrendered too many bombs in big games. Marsalis was first draft pick in move to solve dilemma. Thomas still has a chance. Sellers and Mitchell make damaging mistakes at worst times. PERF. QT.: 5.

Robinson a valuable old pro. His speed is still good enough to cover the necessary ground. Kearney, after kicking around NFL, played well enough to satisfy Stram. Ply returns to KC after tour of Buffalo and Denver. Belser special team guy. Smith, a flea among rhinos, fits no category but kick returning. He's dangerous. PERF. QT.: 4.

AFL WEST

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Prediction: Third

Southern California being the land of the bizarre, you almost expect the Chargers to employ a strength coach by the name of just plain "Maylen" and it wasn't a complete surprise when Jeanne Dixon, the noted seer, prophesized that San Diego's American League franchise will make it all the way to the Super Bowl.

But, alas, amid the bizarre the Chargers have been routine recently. For three consecutive seasons the team has finished third behind Oakland and Kansas City. "We can't afford to do it again," says Sid Gillman, the impatient coach.

Despite Sid's impatience, the Chargers have the ingredients for another third place finish. Last year the only games they lost were to the league powers, Oakland, KC and the World Champion New York Jets. "But those are the teams we have to beat if we're going to move up," says Gillman, stating the obvious.

Unfortunately there is a sameness about this team. They get on the scoreboard often, because John Hadl is a quality quarterback throwing behind a quality line to spectacular receivers. But the running game doesn't have that something extra, just as it hasn't had it in the last couple of seasons. And the defense is equipped to handle the Buffalos, the Denvers, the Bostons and the Miamis. But not the KCs, Raiders and Jets.

The Chargers didn't have the kind of a draft that would provide an immediate transfusion. "Our draft was a big gamble," admits Gillman. "We've been behind in talent and we have to catch up. For two years our former owner [Barron Hilton] decided to go out of business by not signing any draft choices. You can't do that without suffering. As a result, we've had to gamble in the draft. We picked people who could either wind up great or be total busts."

It's essential that at least a couple of Sid's gambles end up great. At least

eventually. The Chargers are in one of sport's most competitive areas now. When the franchise moved down from Los Angeles in 1961, there was nothing else but sunshine and surfers. Now there is a major league baseball team, an NBA basketball franchise, a popular hockey team and San Diego State, the small-college champions who have big ideas about intercollegiate football.

That's a lot of hustling over the entertainment dollar in a comparatively small area. Chronic third place finishers aren't known to do well in the midst of hustlers.

But as long as Lance Alworth can produce the roar of the crowd in Murphy Canyon, as long as those superb pass blockers can protect Hadl and as long as Gillman can keep designing winning game plans, the Chargers have to be granted at least a fighting chance against anyone.

The passing attack still is the principal weapon in the San Diego arsenal. Hadl squabbled with management during the off-season, but he should be able to keep his mind on the matters at hand now. Gary Garrison would be a star elsewhere, but in the shadow of Alworth he remains relatively anonymous. Both Jacque MacKinnon and Willie Frazier are fine tight ends. The problem is depth. If Alworth or Garrison can't play, MacKinnon must be moved outside, and he hasn't got anything near the speed of the regular wide receivers.

It's not healthy for a team to depend upon a player whose own health is not assured. But that's what the Chargers are doing with their running game. With fullback Brad Hubbert, a knee victim last year, the attack could be thunderous. Without him Gene Foster, an honest workman, will be asked to perform over his head. The fullback position is important because Dick Post, the little scooter who plays halfback, has size limitations and gets stopped by the top defenses.

Maybe one of Gillman's calculated rookie risks, halfback Ron Sayers, can help. He's Gale's brother. Ron has speed and more size than Gale, but he played at a small school, Omaha, and has limited experience.

But it's defense that holds back the Chargers. It's full of young guys, some of whom are really bright prospects. But there are others about whom questions are being raised, questions about their true potential. The unit allowed 42 fewer points than it did in 1967, but the improvement wasn't against the quality teams like the Raiders, Jets and Chiefs.

There has to be some oomph in the pass rush. Russ Washington, a giant of a tackle, might be able to provide it but he lugs around excess weight. Another young giant, Ron Billingsley, is being worked upon by Maylen in an effort to make him stronger and, hopefully, meaner.

By Gillman's admission, the Chargers have played without "professional" linebackers in recent years. It's impossible to win without them, of course. Now there are a few, notably Jeff Staggs, if he watches his weight; Pete Barnes, obtained in a trade with Houston; and Bob Babich, a No. 1 draft pick.

The outlook in the secondary could be better. Strong-side safety Ken Graham is no sprinter, but he puts the crunch on people and has the savvy. Bob Howard protects well against the long ball, but he can be stung short. There must be better than cornerback Jim Tolbert and free safety Joe Beauchamp. Jim Hill, a No. 1 draftee in '68 who missed his rookie season due to a knee injury, might muscle in somewhere. Kick return ace Speedy Duncan is vulnerable as a backup at corner because of his small stature.

San Diego should be a little bit better this year, just as it was a little bit better last year. But so will Kansas City and Oakland and New York.

1968 RECORD (9-5)			SYMBOLS		RECEIVING						INTERCEPTIONS							
29	Cincinnati	13	+—Two-point conversion			Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg		Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg		
30	Houston	14	††—Retired		Alworth	68	1312	10	80	19.3	Beauchamp	5	114	2	35	22.8		
31	Cincinnati	10			Garrison	52	1103	10	84	21.2	Graham	5	87	0	42	17.4		
20	New York	23			MacKinnon	33	646	6	62	19.6	Tolbert	2	42	0	22	21.0		
23	Oakland	14	SCORING		Foster	23	224	0	48	9.7 ††	Erlandson	2	22	0	16	11.0		
55	Denver	24									Staggs	2	2	0	2	1.0		
20	Kansas City	27			TDs	PATs	FGs	Total										
34	Miami	28	Partee	0	40	22	106											
27	Boston	17	Alworth	10	1+	0	62											
21	Buffalo	6	Garrison	10	0	0	60											
15	New York	37	MacKinnon	6	1+	0	38											
47	Denver	23			RUSHING						PUNTING							
3	Kansas City	40			Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg		Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg				
27	Oakland	34			Post	151	758	3	62	5.0	Partee	56	2281	60	40.7			
					Smith	88	426	4	37	4.8	PUNT RETURNS							
					Foster	109	394	1	22	3.6		Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg		
					Hubbert	28	119	2	21	4.2	Duncan	18	206	1	95	11.4		
											Graham	13	61	0	22	4.7		
					PASSING						KICKOFF RETURNS							
					Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct		Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg	
					Hadl	440	208	3473	84	27	32	47.3	Duncan	25	586	0	53	23.4
					Brittenuum	17	9	125	22	1	1	52.9	Post	10	199	0	38	19.9

OFFENSE									
QUARTERBACKS—									
Hadl, John	6-1	215	29	8	Kansas				
Brittenuum, Jon	6-0	185	25	2	Arkansas				
Domres, Marty	6-3	212	21	1	Columbia				
RUNNING BACKS									
Post, Dick	5-9	191	23	3	Houston				
Foster, Gene	5-11	220	26	5	Arizona State				
Smith, Russ	6-0	209	24	3	Miami				
Allison, Jim	6-0	215	25	5	San Diego State				
Hubbert, Brad	6-0	227	28	3	Arizona				
Lincoln, Keith	6-1	215	30	9	Washington State				
Sayers, Ron	6-1	202	21	1	Omaha				
RECEIVERS									
Alworth, Lance (W)	6-0	180	29	8	Arkansas				
Garrison, Gary (W)	6-1	195	24	4	San Diego State				
MacKinnon, Jacques (T-W)	6-4	240	30	9	Colgate				
Frazier, Willie (T)	6-4	235	26	6	Arkansas AM&N				
White, Andre (T)	6-3	225	24	3	Florida A&M				
Fenner, Lane (W)	6-5	210	24	2	Florida State				
Davenport, Willie (W)	6-2	185	25	1	Southern				
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker					(T)—Tight End				
INTERIOR LINEMEN									
Mix, Ron (T)	6-4	250	31	10	Southern California				
Owens, Terry (T)	6-6	270	24	4	Jacksonville State				
Sweeney, Walt (G)	6-3	260	28	7	Syracuse				
Kirner, Gary (G)	6-3	255	27	6	Southern California				
Gruneisen, Sam (C-G)	6-1	250	28	8	Villanova				
Lenkaitis, Bill (C-G)	6-3	250	23	2	Penn State				
Ferguson, Gene (T)	6-7	306	21	1	Norfolk State				
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center									
PLACEMENT KICKER									
Partee, Dennis	6-2	208	23	2	Southern Methodist				
DEFENSE									
FRONT LINEMEN									
DeLong, Steve (E)	6-2	252	26	5	Tennessee				
Ridge, Houston (E)	6-4	245	24	4	San Diego State				
Washington, Russ (T)	6-6	290	23	2	Missouri				
Appleton, Scott (T)	6-3	260	25	6	Texas				
Billingsley, Ron (E)	6-7	265	24	3	Wyoming				
Briggs, Bob (T)	6-4	270	24	2	Heidelberg				
(End)—End (T)—Tackle									
LINEBACKERS									
Staggs, Jeff (O)	6-2	240	25	3	San Diego State				
Redman, Rick (O)	6-0	225	26	5	Washington				
Featherston, Jim (M)	6-2	225	24	2	California				
Barnes, Pete (O)	6-2	245	23	2	Southern				
Bruggers, Bob (O)	6-1	230	25	4	Minnesota				
Allen, Chuck (M)	6-0	225	30	9	Washington				
Babich, Bob (M)	6-1	224	21	1	Miami (Ohio)				
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker									
CORNERBACKS									
Howard, Bob	6-2	190	24	3	San Diego State				
Tolbert, Jim	6-3	207	25	4	Lincoln				
Duncan, Les	5-10	175	26	6	Jackson State				
Rentz, Larry	6-0	160	21	1	Florida				
SAFETIES									
Graham, Ken (S)	6-0	205	27	6	Washington				
Beauchamp, Joe (W)	5-11	185	24	4	Iowa State				
Hill, Jim (S)	6-2	192	23	1	Texas A&I				
Farley, Dick (W)	6-0	185	22	2	Boston U.				
Dyer, Ken (W)	6-3	185	23	2	Arizona State				
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety									

Performance Quotients

If his contract squabble with management doesn't spoil his outlook, Hadl should remain among best AFL passers. Brittenuum scrambler type. Domres has potential for the future. PERF. QT.: 3.

Much depends on how well Hubbert comes back from knee surgery. He was a first-class fullback. Post can break it open, but he's no heavy-duty back. If Hubbert can't make it, Foster, a competent plugger, will start. Smith falls into the same category as Gene. It would be a bonus if Lincoln could locate his prime for '69. He broke a leg in his first game after return from Buffalo. Allison is a reserve. Young Sayers another gamble. PERF. QT.: 4.

As fine a group of catchers as there is in the West, with one big qualification: If a wide receiver gets hurt, school is out. Depth is poor. The third wide man is MacKinnon, a starting TE. Sid Gillman hopes Fenner can assume the role, but a service call caused an interruption in his rookie year, taking away valuable experience time. Alworth is great. Garrison now ranks among best ends. Frazier challenges MacKinnon. Davenport is ex-track star with great speed. PERF. QT.: 2.

When you list the best pass protectors in pro football you have to include Mix and Sweeney. The veteran tackle is an artist. Sweeney has risen to All-Pro level in last two seasons. As a group they protect the passer zealously. Their work on running plays could improve. Lenkaitis may break into the lineup at center or guard. If it's center, Gruneisen could be a swing man between guard and center. Kirner, Owens do well. Ferguson an exciting gamble. PERF. QT.: 2.

Solved long time problem with 22-of-32 performance. PERF. QT.: 3.

Four of the six were first-round draft choices, but the Charger pass rush is no blue-ribbon winner. Washington could develop into colossal tackle soon, but the fear is that DeLong and Appleton, two greats in college, will never become pro stars. Ex-linebacker Ridge showed occasional brilliance. Billingsley must become more aggressive. He has it all physically. Briggs has potential. PERF. QT.: 4.

Gillman brought 16 linebackers to camp this summer. Coach hopes he is on the way toward licking an old problem. Best vet is Staggs, a rugged youngster who sometimes has to battle a weight problem. Featherston won middle job as free agent rookie. The jury is still out. Redman, Allen are seasoned, but not exciting. Barnes, acquired from Houston, could be a top one. Bruggers won't start. Babich, a No. 1 draft, gets to the action with great speed. PERF. QT.: 4.

Howard came through well after disappointing rookie year. He gives promise of developing into first-class corner. Tolbert, an ex-safety, is unproven. Duncan, once a starter, mainly classed as returner of kicks now. Rentz's size a liability. PERF. QT.: 4.

Graham bombs ball carrier, does a good job of covering tight ends. Beauchamp has cornerback speed, but his savvy is a question. Farley won starting job early, then went into service last year. Dyer being switched from receiver. The big news is the return of Hill, a No. 1 draftee who was injured last year. PERF. QT.: 3.

DENVER BRONCOS

Prediction: Fourth

The amazing part of the Broncos is the Denver fans. Going into their 10th season the Broncos never have finished above .500. It's been seven years since they won as many as they lost, and that year they finished with a seven game losing streak. But the Denverites still care. They still come out to the games and chant and pound their feet in the new upper deck that was added to Bronco Stadium last year, pushing the capacity above 50,000.

This year the Bronco fans should have more to cheer about. The team might even flirt with .500 again.

Lou Saban begins his third year of a 10-year contract as head coach and general manager. He's making progress. He threw away most of the old parts when he got there and started all over. Some of the new parts are beginning their third year and they bear that competent look.

But the problem with the Broncos is that they are in the wrong division for a young, ambitious football team. If they were in the East, they might finish third, even make a pass at second. But they're stuck in the West with Kansas City, Oakland and San Diego above them and Paul Brown driving his Cincinnati Bengals hard in back of them.

Saban acquires talent wherever he can find it. His latest acquisition is Pete Liske, considered the best quarterback in the Canadian League before he played out his option in Calgary. Liske will challenge Steve Tensi and Marlin Briscoe for the No. 1 job. Saban hopes the competition is decided quickly, as he hasn't had a stable situation at quarterback since he arrived on the Denver scene.

The offensive line still is something less than an impregnable wall. Tensi suffers the consequences. Last year it was a broken collarbone that kept him out for half the season. There is a suspicion he is brittle. Still, the team won better than half the games he

played. Little Marlin Briscoe has the arm and the poise, but at 5-10 he's little more than a black Fran Tarkenton, which doesn't excite the coach.

Protecting whomever is the quarterback will be Sam Brunelli and Mike Current at the tackles, George Goeddeke and Bob Young at the guards and Larry Kaminski at center. One of the few encouraging things about this fivesome is that they're at the stage where their experience should start to show, but age is no problem. Brunelli, Kaminski and Young are in their fourth years, the others begin their third semesters. They also have size—ranging between 245 for Kaminski and Goeddeke to 270 for Brunelli. But based on their performances to date, they're not the kind who minimize their mistakes and power a team into championship contention.

The receiving should be good if Al Denson doesn't continue to have sympathy pains. He broke a collarbone when Tensi did and played half a season at three-quarter speed. At his best he has the speed for deep stuff and the strength and courage for medium passes thrown down the middle. The flanker position, with Eric Crabtree traded, will be hard to fill. Tight end Tom Beer doesn't have the speed to beat the best defenses.

Saban has a theory about his team's futile search for a big fullback. Lou thinks that maybe the way football is going he doesn't need a big fullback. "The guy in that spot has to have outside speed and pass-catching ability, more and more, now that the defensive lines are getting so big and so good," says Saban. "Maybe we're better off playing two halfback types."

The halfback types most likely to play are Floyd Little, who bears little resemblance to the Floyd Little of Syracuse legend, and either Garrett Ford, injured last year, or Fran Lynch. Little is not a champion blocker. Ford hasn't performed at full speed since his junior year at West Virginia and

Lynch is not the man to win championships for you. If none of these men can do the job, Saban might play big Tom Smiley from the Bengals.

The Broncos have built one-third of a defense, a line. The best part of the line is a young end, Rich Jackson. Nobody in pro football kicks sand in his face. He does a great job rushing the passer. Tackle Dave Costa has been around for a while, but he's still only 27. He puts on a good interior rush and he's hard to root out of there on runs. End Paul Smith could compete with Jackson for quarterbacks' scalps.

The Denver linebackers present a graphic illustration of how to learn by mistakes. They were an example of total self-destruction as rookies. Last year they cut down on the errors and, at times, were respectable. Saban feels they will ferment soon. The best is middle man John Huard, a deadly tackler. Chip Myrtle looks like he can master pass coverage. Carl Cunningham, a college defensive end, gets stung more often than the other two. Frank Richter came up as a rookie with the three starters. Mike Schnitker, a big rookie from Colorado State, has the range and speed. If he outgrows the position, he'll get a shot as a defensive end.

It's in the secondary that the Broncos' work is the hardest. Last year the pass defenders were small, young, and worst of all, unskilled. So three of this term's first four draft picks were cornerbacks. Grady Cavness played at Texas-El Paso, where they know about passing attacks. Ed Hayes comes from Morgan State, spawning ground for a number of pros. Bill Thompson of Maryland State has the best physical credentials.

To teach them, Saban hired Joe Collier, former head coach at Buffalo. Collier coached the Bills' secondary when Saban was their head man.

It looks like another year of loyalty, cheering—and frustration—in the Bronco corral.

1968 RECORD (5-9)

SYMBOL

**—Traded

10	Cincinnati	24
2	Kansas City	34
17	Boston	20
10	Cincinnati	7
21	New York	13
24	San Diego	55
21	Miami	14
35	Boston	14
7	Oakland	43
17	Houston	38
34	Buffalo	32
23	San Diego	47
27	Oakland	33
7	Kansas City	30

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Howfield	0	30	9	57
**Crabtree	5	0	0	30
Little	5	0	0	30
Denson	5	0	0	30

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Briscoe	224	93	1589	66	14	13	41.5
Tensi	119	48	709	72	5	8	40.3

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
**Crabtree	35	601	5	72	17.2
Denson	34	586	5	44	17.2
Beer	20	276	1	31	13.8
Van Heusen	19	353	3	51	18.6
Little	19	331	1	66	27.4

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Little	158	584	3	55	3.7
Briscoe	41	308	3	34	7.5
Lynch	66	221	4	19	3.3
Ford	41	186	1	23	4.5

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Jaquess	5	64	0	28	12.6
Greer	4	18	0	14	4.5
Oberg	3	17	0	16	5.6

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Van Heusen	88	3853	68	43.8

PUNT RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Little	24	261	1	67	10.9
Greer	9	53	0	12	5.9

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Little	26	649	0	89	25.0
Hollomon	7	194	0	67	27.7

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Tensi, Steve	6-5	215	26	5	Florida State
Liske, Pete	6-1	200	28	7	Penn State
Briscoe, Marlin	5-10	177	23	2	Omaha
Pastrana, Allen	6-1	190	23	1	Maryland
RUNNING BACKS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Little, Floyd	5-10	195	27	3	Syracuse
Smiley, Tom	6-1	235	25	2	Lamar Tech
McCarthy, Brendan	6-3	220	24	2	Boston College
Lynch, Fran	6-1	194	23	3	Hofstra
Ford, Garrett	6-2	230	23	2	West Virginia
Quayle, Frank	5-10	195	21	1	Virginia
Coleman, Mike	6-3	223	21	1	Tampa
RECEIVERS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Denson, Al (W)	6-2	208	27	6	Florida A&M
Jones, Jimmy (W)	6-3	195	28	5	Wisconsin
Beer, Tom (T)	6-4	230	24	3	Houston
Haffner, Mike (T-W)	6-2	205	26	2	UCLA
Van Heusen, Bill (W)	6-1	200	22	2	Maryland
Sias, John (W)	6-1	200	21	1	Georgia Tech
(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Current, Mike (T)	6-4	260	24	3	Ohio State
Brunelli, Sam (T)	6-2	270	26	4	Colorado State Coll.
Goeddeke, George (G)	6-3	245	24	3	Notre Dame
Young, Bob (G)	6-2	260	27	4	Howard Payne
Kaminski, Larry (C)	6-2	245	24	4	Purdue
Gaiser, George (T)	6-4	255	23	2	Southern Methodist
Vaughan, Bob (G)	6-4	240	24	2	Mississippi
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
PLACEMENT KICKER					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Howfield, Bob	5-9	180	32	2	None

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jackson, Richard (E)	6-3	255	27	4	Southern
Duranko, Pete (E)	6-2	252	25	3	Notre Dame
Costa, Dave (T)	6-1	265	27	7	Utah
Inman, Jerry (T)	6-3	255	29	4	Oregon
Smith, Paul (E)	6-3	245	24	2	New Mexico
Cox, Larry (T)	6-2	250	25	4	Abilene Christian
Mirich, Rex (T-E)	6-4	250	28	6	Northern Arizona
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Cunningham, Carl (O)	6-3	241	25	3	Houston
Myrtle, Chip (O)	6-2	225	24	3	Maryland
Huard, John (M)	6-0	220	25	3	Maine
Richter, Frank (O)	6-3	230	24	3	Georgia
Forsberg, Fred (M)	6-1	235	25	2	Washington
Schnitker, Mike (O)	6-3	235	22	1	Colorado
Giffin, Al (M)	6-3	229	21	1	Auburn
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Garrett, Drake	5-9	183	23	2	Michigan State
Cavness, Grady	5-11	187	21	1	Texas-El Paso
Thompson, Bill	6-1	200	21	1	Maryland State
Hayes, Ed	6-1	185	22	1	Morgan State

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Jaquess, Pete (S)	5-11	182	30	6	Eastern New Mexico
Greer, Charley (W)	6-0	205	23	2	Colorado
Hollomon, Gus (S)	6-3	195	23	2	Houston
Lentz, Jack (W)	6-0	195	24	3	Holy Cross
Oberg, Tom (W)	6-0	185	23	2	Portland State

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

If he can avoid injury, Tensi could prove worthy of price Broncos paid to San Diego in draft choices. Lack of agility makes him an easy target. Liske, top Canadian quarterback, could be answer. It doesn't lie with exciting Briscoe or young Pastrana. PERF. QT.: 4.

Acquisition of Smiley from Cincinnati may go a long way toward solving Denver's big-back problem, and Smiley's presence may help Little, too. Little is in and out of coach's doghouse. Only occasionally does he show old Syracuse rip. Saban's patience is running thin. McCarthy found a home after three NFL clubs cut him. Ford could move ahead if he stays whole. Lynch good spot player. Quayle could get work at flanker, Coleman at tight end. PERF. QT.: 4.

Denson should come back strong from broken collarbone. When healthy he's among AFL's best wide receivers. Beer showed progress, but he may be too slow to make it big. Jones, ex-Bear, could be more useful with better quarterbacking. Van Heusen, one of Lou Saban's ex-Maryland players, came to punt, stayed to catch passes, too. Haffner is a reserve. Sias has real potential. PERF. QT.: 4.

Once a ragtag group, offensive line now considered bright spot. Only Goeddeke ranks as a budding star, however. Current, once a reject, is progressing. Brunelli a strong type who really plugs. Kaminski has trouble handling some of the more powerful tackles. Young was OK after his switch from defensive end. There's a breakdown on pass protection now and then and running game isn't major league. Gaiser, Vaughan are bench strength. PERF. QT.: 4.

English soccer player had confidence toward end. PERF. QT.: 3.

Saban considers this group one of his team's strongest assets. It took time for Jackson, ex-Oakland linebacker, to learn end play, but now it will be hard to keep him off All-Pro teams. He's team's most reliable pass rusher. Costa had an off year, but at 27 he should crack back. Unless Duranko comes on strong, he could lose his job to Smith, an aggressive kid. Inman best against run. Mirich, Cox rugged subs who fill in best at tackle. No patsies here. PERF. QT.: 3.

This should be the year dividends are paid. Cunningham, Huard, Myrtle have been a unit since '67. Their mistakes were costly three years ago, then a big improvement was shown last year. This time they should be a plus for Broncos. Richter has been a sometime starter over the same period. Forsberg stuck last year after previous failures. Coaches like looks of rangy, speedy Schnitker. If he can't make it big here Giffin might prove competent backup at tight end. PERF. QT.: 4.

Three of the first four draft picks—Cavness, Thompson and Hayes—were cornerbacks. Tell you something? Garrett was hurt last year. He's a shorty anyway. Saban yearned to make trade for experienced hand, but didn't have the purchase price. PERF. QT.: 5.

This is Jaquess's fourth AFL team in six seasons. He's a journeyman at best. Greer was a so-so corner in his rookie year, but could make it at free safety where the sprinters aren't sent into the territory. Hollomon is a hitter who could challenge Jaquess before long. Injuries handicap heady Lentz. Oberg has his moments. PERF. QT.: 5.

AFL WEST

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Prediction: Fifth

The Paul Brown clique let its enthusiasm get out of hand upon the Master's return to pro football. True, the Bengals were more respectable than any other expansion team ever had been. They won three games, which is about par for the expansion course. And not even the AFL powerhouses completely destroyed the young team.

But the Bengals still look like they have the makings of just another bad ball club for the next several years, despite Brown's presence and the insistence of his followers that he eventually will dominate the AFL and its successor, the American Conference of the National League.

For instance, Brown made one big mistake in his opening season. He traded first and second draft choices to Miami for quarterback John Stofa. Brown felt Stofa had the potential of becoming a first-rate quarterback. Now it appears Stofa has the potential to become an understudy quarterback and not much beyond that. The Bengals might have made better use of the draft choices.

When Stofa sagged, Brown turned his attention to Sam Wyche, who hadn't even been able to hold a regular job in the Continental League. Before any conclusions had been drawn on him, Sam broke an ankle. So it looks as if Brown will cast the future of the Bengals with Greg Cook, a tall, strong-armed quarterback from neighboring Cincinnati U. Cook rang up 554 yards against Ohio U. in one game last year. But Ohio U. isn't the Oakland Raiders.

Unless Brown detects something below the surface in Wyche, Cook probably will start as a rookie. That's not as big a risk as it might be on other teams. The coach still sends in plays by messenger.

Knowing he had passing problems, Brown dictated a cautious course. As a result, the Bengals had only 11 passes intercepted out of 313 thrown, lowest

interception percentage in the league. But only eight touchdowns came through the air.

The receiving still is in the experimental stage. Bob Trumpy, originally ticketed to be a wide receiver, was stationed at tight end and led the team in catching. Warren McVea was switched from halfback, the position at which he excelled with the University of Houston, to flanker. He's still learning. Both were handicapped by the lack of a good passer. Eric Crabtree acquired from Denver in a pre-season trade, is neither big nor fast, but he is a smart, experienced pass catcher. The best newcomer is Speedy Thomas, a lithe wide end from Utah.

If the passing was unimpressive, the running was just the opposite. Brown hired canny Bill Johnson away from the San Francisco 49ers and it turned out to be a sound move. Johnson gave starting assignments to three rookies—his namesake, Bob Johnson, at center, Dave Middelendorf at guard and Howard Fest at tackle. They, along with veteran tackle Ernie Wright and the spunky ex-Bronco, Pat Matson, at guard, opened some unexpected holes. As a result, rookie halfback Paul Robinson gained 1,023 yards to lead the league, and the Bengals had one of the AFL's most effective running games overall. Rookie Guy Dennis of Florida and Gary Bugenhagen, who spent the last year in Vietnam after being acquired from Buffalo in the expansion draft, may help the line open even more running holes.

Robinson turned out, somewhat unexpectedly, to be the franchise's No. 1 asset. He had only one year's experience at Arizona, but a third of the way through his first pro season he blossomed into an explosive ball carrier.

His style is somewhere between that of Cleveland's Leroy Kelly and Abner Haynes, an early AFL star, except that he has more speed than Kelly and more power than Haynes. The

Bengals still consider him a diamond in the rough. His pass catching talents should be used more if Cook is as good as his notices say.

The ground game figures to get even better if a fullback is found to replace Tom Smiley, traded for Crabtree. For heavy duty work the Bengals drafted Clem Turner, a 250-pounder who passed up his senior year at Cincinnati U. to pick up Canadian League paychecks. Essex Johnson is a smaller, faster version of Robinson.

Defensively, Brown has a lot of work ahead of him. The line contains a young tackle, Bill Staley, who should develop into a star. He has shoulder problems, but few tackles have his pass-rushing potential. End Harry Gunner showed occasional brilliance as a rookie. The other incumbent starters, end Jim Griffin and tackle Andy Rice, are guys nobody else wanted. A late-blooming rookie, Bill Kindricks, should help if he sheds a few pounds. For depth Brown has to depend upon surprises from his old roster or the draft—or from any shrewd trades or claims he makes.

After Cook, the No. 1 draft pick, Brown went after linebacker help. He needs it. The second choice was Bill Bergey of Arkansas State. His school isn't exactly big time, so any help the new linebacker coach, Vince Costello, can give him will be appreciated. Al Beauchamp could become one of the better outside linebackers, providing he acquires some finesse. He's a bomber. Sherrill Headrick's spirit is willing but his body has about had it. So young Bernard Erickson will get the best shot at the middle linebacker position.

Veteran quarterbacks weren't exactly terrorized by the Bengal defensive backs. Brown says he was satisfied with the work of corners Charlie King and Fletcher Smith, but neither is a good tackler and the best receivers don't respect them. Free safety Jess

Cont. on Page 103

1968 RECORD (3-11)

SYMBOLS

†—League leader

**—Traded

13	San Diego	29
24	Denver	10
34	Buffalo	23
10	San Diego	31
7	Denver	10
3	Kansas City	13
22	Miami	24
10	Oakland	31
17	Houston	27
9	Kansas City	16
38	Miami	21
0	Oakland	34
14	Boston	33
14	New York	27

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Livingston	0	20	13	59
Robinson	9	0	0	54
E. Johnson	3	0	0	18
McVea	3	0	0	18
Trumpy	3	0	0	18

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Stofa	177	85	896	60	5	5	48.0
Warren	80	47	506	45	1	4	58.8
Wyche	55	35	494	80	2	2	63.6

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Trumpy	37	639	3	80	17.3
Sherman	31	374	1	27	12.1
Robinson	24	128	1	68	5.3
McVea	21	264	2	55	12.6

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Robinson	238	1023†	8	87	4.3
E. Johnson	26	178	3	31	6.8
**Smiley	63	146	1	11	2.3
McVea	9	133	1	80	14.8

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Phillips	3	26	0	23	8.7
Beauchamp	2	35	1	18	17.5

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Livingston	70	3036	66	43.4

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
E. Johnson	22	111	0	45	5.1
Spiller	2	51	0	40	25.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
McVea	14	310	0	30	22.1
E. Johnson	14	266	0	31	19.0

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Wyche, Sam	6-4	210	24	2	Furman
Stofa, John	6-3	210	27	4	Buffalo
Warren, Dewey	6-0	205	24	2	Tennessee
Cook, Greg	6-4	204	22	1	Cincinnati

RUNNING BACKS

Robinson, Paul	6-1	200	24	2	Arizona
Johnson, Essex	5-9	191	22	2	Grambling
Banks, Estes	6-2	220	23	3	Colorado
Lamb, Ron	6-2	225	25	2	South Carolina
Turner, Clem	6-1	245	24	1	Cincinnati
Stripling, Mike	6-2	217	21	1	Tulsa

RECEIVERS

McVea, Warren (W)	5-10	182	23	2	Houston
Crabtree, Eric (W)	5-11	182	24	4	Pittsburgh
Trumpy, Bob (T)	6-6	220	24	2	Utah
Sherman, Rod (W)	6-0	190	24	3	Southern California
Saffold, St. (W)	6-4	202	25	2	San Jose State
Herock, Ken (T)	6-2	230	28	6	West Virginia
Thomas, Speedy (W)	6-1	175	22	1	Utah

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker

(T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Fest, Howard (T)	6-6	275	23	2	Texas
Wright, Ernie (T)	6-4	270	29	10	Ohio State
Middendorf, Dave (G)	6-3	260	23	2	Washington State
Matson, Pat (G)	6-1	245	25	4	Oregon
Johnson, Bob (C)	6-5	260	23	2	Tennessee
Kelly, Bob (T)	6-2	270	29	5	New Mexico State
Bugenhagen, Gary (T)	6-2	248	23	2	Syracuse
Dennis, Guy (G)	6-2	255	23	1	Florida

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

PLACEMENT KICKER

Livingston, Dale	6-0	210	24	2	Western Michigan
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DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Gunner, Harry (E)	6-6	250	24	2	Oregon State
Griffin, Jim (E)	6-3	265	27	5	Grambling
Staley, Bill (T)	6-3	250	22	2	Utah State
Rice, Andy (T)	6-2	268	27	4	Texas Southern
Baccaglio, Martin (E)	6-3	245	24	2	San Jose State
Kindricks, Bill (T)	6-3	268	23	2	Alabama A&M
Randall, Dennis (E)	6-6	240	24	3	Oklahoma State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Beauchamp, Al (O)	6-2	236	25	2	Southern
Buncom, Frank (O)	6-2	245	29	8	Southern California
Headrick, Sherrill (M)	6-1	240	32	11	Texas Christian
Hibler, Mike (O)	6-1	235	23	2	Stanford
Elzey, Paul (O-M)	6-3	235	23	2	Toledo
McClure, Wayne (O)	6-1	225	23	2	Mississippi
Peterson, Bill (O)	6-3	230	24	2	San Jose State
Erickson, Bernard (M)	6-2	240	24	3	Abilene Christian
Bergey, Bob (M)	6-2	240	24	1	Arkansas State

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

King, Charlie	6-0	184	26	4	Purdue
Smith, Fletcher	6-0	178	25	4	Tennessee State

SAFETIES

Hunt, Bobby (S)	6-1	190	29	8	Auburn
Phillips, Jess (W)	6-1	205	22	2	Michigan State

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Stofa represents one of the Master's few errors. He didn't look worth two high drafts Brown paid for him. Wyche was more interesting. Warren a disappointment. The Bengals's future probably lies with Cook. No law against an infant team playing a rookie QB. PERF. QT.: 5.

With only one year of college experience, Robinson became the class runner in the AFL. The mind bends when you think of what he could do with some seasoning. Johnson has Robinson's speed. Ex-Raider Banks still has big potential. Top newcomers are Turner, who skipped senior year in college to play in Canada, and Tulsa's quarterback-turned-halfback, Stripling. Lamb may not make it. PERF. QT.: 3.

Trade for Crabtree will help this whole unit. He's a competent one. Trumpy came into training camp an unheralded, low draft choice and became the club's leading receiver. Coach Brown switched him to tight end because there wasn't anyone else. He should be playing on the outside but there's no one to play tight end this year, either. McVea has frightening speed. Thomas could be his partner. Sherman could be trade bait. Saffold, Herock are reserves. PERF. QT.: 4.

The Bengals had the third best per-carry average in the league and Paul Robinson gained 1,023 yards. Not bad for an expansion line which included three rookies, Fest, Middendorf and Johnson. Ex-Charger Wright had one of his better years and hard-nosed Matson plays guard with dedication. Dennis, a star at Florida, and Bugenhagen, the ex-Bill who spent last year in Vietnam, should add some depth. The experts say Johnson will be the eventual successor to Oakland's Jim Otto as All-AFL center. Kelly fights to stay. PERF. QT.: 3.

More consistent punter than field-goaler. PERF. QT.: 4.

Rush line consisted of two good rookies and two journeymen. Slight change possible if Kindricks, who reported overweight last year, is in shape to replace Rice. Kindricks is tough and strong enough to do it. Staley can be 'tackle to reckon with if he acquires some finesse and his shoulder stops paining him. Gunner a rangy pass rusher. Young guy like Baccaglio or Randall might forge ahead of Griffin this time. Draft didn't help much. PERF. QT.: 5.

One of the vital places you build a team. Brown picked up a good one in the '68 draft, Beauchamp. He might have another good one in Bergey. Ex-Charger Erickson started toward the end of the season, following Headrick's injury. The youngster may get the job permanently. Buncom best among the seasoned backers. It's a matter of shaking well in the cases of Elzey, McClure, Hibler, Peterson. Elzey a Baltimore reject, Hibler an Oakland cast-off and McClure formerly of KC. If Beauchamp's homicidal tendencies can be curbed, he'll be more effective than he was as a rookie. PERF. QT.: 5.

King and Smith start, and while they're not too bad, there's no visible reserve strength. The search is on. PERF. QT.: 5.

Hunt is a solid vet. Phillips shows real potential, made switch from running back. Again, depth is a problem. PERF. QT.: 3.

NEW YORK JETS

Prediction: First

Those pass receivers. That defensive line. That fullback. Those pass protectors. That field goal kicker.

With America's No. 1 saloonkeeper playing quarterback, the Jets have to be favored to repeat at least as Eastern Division champions, if not as conquerors of the whole universe once again. Without him they might have had a little trouble proving their supremacy in Queens and Staten Island.

To paraphrase a long-forgotten baseball writer, as Joe Willie Namath goes, so go the Jets.

This team does have outstanding receivers, a good offensive line, good runners, one of the best field goal kickers and sound defense. But great quarterbacks dictate the rise and fall of football fortunes, so when Namath said "I quit" one day in June, the Jets' stock tumbled down the graph. One day in July, the stock rose again, of course, when Joe came home.

In 1968 Namath stopped being a tremendous passer who had great days. Instead he became a great quarterback who coldly dissected defenses and ruthlessly attacked their weakest points.

The more sparingly he used his passes, the more feared they became. He's near impossible to reach with a pass rush because he's protected so well and he gets rid of the ball so fast. To blitz him is to commit suicide, as the Colts found out in the Super Bowl.

The rest of the offense gets a triple AAA rating—the receivers, in particular. Don Maynard looks like an escapee from a nursing home, but he caught 10 scoring passes and averaged 22.8 yards per catch at the age of 31. George Sauer Jr. is writing a novel in his spare time, but AFL defensive backs have a poor book on him. Just when they think he has speed only for the short and medium passes, he burns them for a 60-yarder. Bake Turner can fill in for either man, but the Jets better hope they don't lose more than one at the same time. Pete Lammons is a

tough tight end who played most of last season with an injured knee. Healthy, he is capable of catching a lot more passes than the 32 he nabbed in the Super year.

Three young "old" pros, tackle Winston Hill, center John Schmitt and guard Dave Herman protect Namath about as well as any quarterback gets protected. Herman played tackle in the important games in '68, but if Dave Foley, the No. 1 draft choice from Ohio State, can step right into the lineup, Dave can concentrate on being one of the league's best guards.

Matt Snell, who plays brilliantly when he's in his best moods, was in one of his very best against Baltimore. But it was the late-season play of Emerson Boozer that had Coach Weeb Ewbank excited. Boozer started looking like the Boozer of '67, when he was the best halfback in the league until a knee injury robbed him of confidence. Even when he wasn't at his running best, his blocking made it worthwhile having him in the lineup. Another knee case, fullback Lee White, got to play only one game as a rookie. The big guy has a lot to learn, but he could be useful.

With Namath supervising a more conservative offense, kicker Jim Turner got to try more field goals. The 34 he made represent an all-time pro record. He's not as strong as Jan Stenerud of Kansas City, but he matches consistency with anyone. He has one of the best holders in Babe Parilli, the wise old backup quarterback who must be relieved that he doesn't have to step in for Namath full-time.

Defense was one of the reasons the Las Vegas odds-makers made Baltimore a three-touchdown choice on Super Sunday. That's how much they know.

There are no Buck Buchanans or Deacon Joneses on the rush line, but everyone pulls an oar. Gerry Philbin doesn't have All-Pro size, but he has an All-Pro heart. John Elliott developed into a fine tackle, particularly

on the pass rush. Verlon Biggs decided to sign again instead of becoming a free agent, so the expectation is that he may produce even more good football this year. Rocky Rochester, an honest workman, could lose his tackle job to a comer, Carl McAdams. Steve Thompson and Gary Magner, who was injured last year, are spirited reserves up front.

Ewbank likes his linebackers active. Outside man Larry Grantham a 10-year veteran, and middle man Al Atkinson are among the most agile in the East. Ralph Baker is a pounder on the other side. Undersized Paul Crane and Mike Stromberg, a strong youngster, can step in if needed.

Johnny Sample can't drive every receiver to distraction, as he did Willie Richardson of Baltimore, but he's still a competent cornerback. Quarterbacks have stopped trying to exploit young Randy Beverly. He's got speed and a chippy attitude. Jim Hudson has some tackling lapses at strong safety, but he makes big plays. So does Bill Baird, who has more speed than most free safeties.

Even though the Jets fly the World championship flag, there still is room on this club for talented youngsters. Once past the obvious stars, the team is composed of a lot of "can-play" guys, people who can step into a lineup for a game or two and maintain the championship level. Stromberg did it for Atkinson against Kansas City. Crane blocked two vital kicks in important games. Bill Mathis, another potential "retiree," burns certain types of defenses. Billy Joe, a journeyman running back, made contributions.

Namath raises this team above the pack—and that's where they should finish this year, in the East, anyway. Whether the New Yorkers can survive a two-stage playoff against the Western powers is another question. If you ask Namath for the answer, you know what he'll say. And, after his last "guarantee," who's to say the Jets can't do it again?

1968 RECORD (13-3)

SYMBOL

†—League leader

20	Kansas City	19
47	Boston	31
35	Buffalo	37
23	San Diego	20
13	Denver	21
20	Houston	14
48	Boston	14
25	Buffalo	21
26	Houston	7
32	Oakland	43
37	San Diego	15
35	Miami	17
27	Cincinnati	14
31	Miami	7
27	Oakland	23
(AFL Title)		
16	Baltimore	7
(Super Bowl)		

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
J. Turner	0	43	34	145†
Maynard	10	0	0	60
Snell	7	0	0	42
Mathis	6	1	0	38

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Namath	380	187	3147	87	15	17	49.2
Parilli	55	29	401	40	5	2	52.7

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Sauer	66	1141	3	43	17.3
Maynard	57	1297	10	87	22.8
Lammons	32	400	3	37	12.5
Snell	16	105	1	39	6.6

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Snell	179	747	6	60	4.2
Boozer	143	441	5	33	3.1
Mathis	74	208	5	16	2.8
Joe	42	186	3	32	4.4

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Sample	7	88	1	39	12.6
Hudson	5	96	0	45	19.2
Beverly	4	127	1	68	31.8

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Johnson	68	2977	65	43.8

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Christy	13	116	0	39	8.9
Baird	18	111	0	20	6.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Christy	25	599	0	87	24.0
B. Turner	14	319	0	36	22.8

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Namath, Joe	6-2	195	26	5	Alabama
Parilli, Babe	6-0	190	39	16	Kentucky
Woodall, Al	6-5	210	22	1	Duke
RUNNING BACKS					
Boozer, Emerson	5-11	204	26	5	Jackson State
Snell, Matt	6-2	219	28	6	Ohio State
Mathis, Bill	6-1	220	30	10	Clemson
Joe, Billy	6-2	236	28	7	Villanova
Gilbert, Chris	5-11	183	22	1	Texas
White, Lee	6-4	240	23	2	Weber State
RECEIVERS					
Sauer, George (W)	6-2	195	25	5	Texas
Maynard, Don (W)	6-1	179	32	12	Texas-El Paso
Lammons, Pete (T)	6-3	228	25	4	Texas
Turner, Bake (W)	6-1	179	29	8	Texas Tech
Rademacher, Bill (W)	6-1	190	27	6	Northern Michigan
Johnson, Curley (T)	6-0	215	34	12	Houston
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Hill, Winston (T)	6-4	280	27	7	Texas Southern
Walton, Sam (T)	6-6	270	26	2	East Texas
Herman, Dave (G)	6-1	255	28	6	Michigan State
Talamini, Bob (G)	6-1	255	30	10	Kentucky
Schmitt, John (C)	6-4	245	25	6	Hofstra
Rasmussen, Randy (G)	6-2	255	24	3	Kearney (Neb.) State
Foley, Dave (T)	6-5	255	22	1	Ohio State
Jones, Ezell (T)	6-4	253	22	1	Minnesota
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
PLACEMENT KICKER					
Turner, Jim	6-2	205	28	6	Utah State

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Philbin, Gerry (E)	6-2	245	28	6	Buffalo
Biggs, Verlon (E)	6-4	270	26	5	Jackson State
Elliott, John (T)	6-4	245	24	3	Texas
Rochester, Paul (T)	6-2	255	31	10	Michigan State
Thompson, Steve (E)	6-5	245	24	2	Washington
McAdams, Carl (T-E)	6-3	240	25	3	Oklahoma
Hayes, Ray (T)	6-5	248	23	2	Toledo
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
Grantham, Larry (O)	6-0	210	31	10	Mississippi
Baker, Ralph (O)	6-3	235	27	6	Penn State
Atkinson, Al (M)	6-2	230	26	5	Villanova
Crane, Paul (O)	6-2	205	25	4	Alabama
Stromberg, Mike (M)	6-2	235	24	2	Temple
Jones, Jimmy (O)	6-3	215	22	1	Wichita
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Sample, John	6-1	208	32	12	Maryland State
Beverly, Randy	5-11	185	25	3	Colorado State
Gordon, Cornell	6-0	187	28	5	North Carolina A&T
SAFETIES					
Hudson, Jim (S)	6-2	210	26	5	Texas
Baird, Bill (W)	5-10	180	30	7	San Francisco State
D'Amato, Mike (S)	6-2	204	26	2	Hofstra
Richards, Jim (W)	6-1	180	22	2	Virginia Tech
Battle, Mike (W)	6-1	175	22	1	Southern California
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

When the bell rings, Joe is there, ready for serious work. Name one better. He's just begun to show his true talent. Babe capable backup. Woodall an insurance policy. PERF. QT.: 1.

Against the Colts in the showdown, Snell looked as good as any fullback in operation. His interest has to be maintained. He catches and blocks as well as runs. Boozer may have convinced himself that he still has the skills he possessed before operation. Mathis may call it a day. White could be great. Gilbert handy in right spots. Joe tries a comeback from surgery. PERF. QT.: 3.

If Lammons regains his health, this is the best starting group in the AFL. In the last three seasons Sauer caught 205 passes. He can singe the finest cornerback. Maynard has to be near 100 percent to function well, but even at 32 he ranks with game's top deep targets. Lammons played gamely on one leg last year. Turner plays well, if infrequently. Curley punts. Rademacher is special team man. PERF. QT.: 1.

You need an appointment with these citizens if you want to see Namath. They protect him like the crown jewels. Switch was necessary late in the season when Walton caved in against better ends. Herman moved to tackle with Rasmussen promoted to starting guard. If Walton or Foley, No. 1 draft choice, proves he can do it this time, Dave will be guard once again. Rasmussen would duel Talamini for other guard spot. Hill proved he's among game's best in AFL title and Super Bowl games. Schmitt fine. Jones fights to stay. PERF. QT.: 2.

No kicker ever booted 34 field goals in a season before. PERF. QT.: 1.

Philbin's is the only name that approaches being a household word, but this gang still led the AFL in most of the important categories. They shut down the run and pester the passers more often than you'd expect. Elliott, an ex-linebacker, made a big difference. So did Biggs, who is maturing as a pro. Rochester has mileage on him, but McAdams, another former linebacker, appears to be strong enough for the tackle job. New help comes from Thompson, maybe Hayes. PERF. QT.: 2.

Not a giant in the collection, but they're agile, quick, smart and support nobly against the pass. This could be the year Atkinson rates an All Star nod. Grantham is 31, but still has the big heart. Baker steady, big-play guy. Stromberg subbed well when Atkinson was hurt. Crane's special-team heroics led to a couple of victories. Coaches may look at Jones as safety, too. PERF. QT.: 3.

Sample's mouth sometimes clouds his true ability. He has plenty left. Beverly's two interceptions Super Day weren't accident. He's a corner. Gordon won't embarrass Ewbank. PERF. QT.: 3.

Hudson sometimes misses a tackle, but he's fine covering good tight ends and has speed for pursuit. Baird does well for his size. Savvy has come to him over his half dozen seasons. Weeb likes D'Amato's grit and intelligence. He and Richards help on special teams. If Battle's lack of speed is overcome, he'll be a plus. PERF. QT.: 3.

AFL EAST

HOUSTON OILERS

Prediction: Second

Scrumbling quarterbacks like Fran Tarkenton and George Mira lift the average football fan right out of his seat, but their helter-skelter style probably loses as many games as it wins.

A case in point is the Houston club. The Oilers dropped from the Eastern Division championship to a 7-7 record because their roving quarterbacks finished sixth in percentage of completions, finished below five other AFL teams in number of passes they had intercepted and lost 316 yards attempting to pass, a good deal of it wandering away from their protection.

Bad habits like this are hard to break, which means that the Oilers have an almost insurmountable struggle ahead of them in trying to wrest the Eastern title away from the Jets.

The Oilers are beginning to doubt whether their QB problems were solved two years ago when they traded with Kansas City for Pete Beathard. Beathard still has the great arm and he can charge up a team. But he is one of the fastest quarterbacks around and that distinction leads him to believe, from time to time, that he is an O.J. Simpson. The result can be an unexpected first down for the Oilers or an unexpected disaster.

An appendectomy hospitalized Beathard at mid-season, and the controls were turned over to Don Trull. Trull had been cut by the Oilers two years before, cut by Boston early last season and then signed for the Houston taxi squad. When he got to play in '68 he seemed to have improved. His play calling was more decisive and he was getting rid of the ball faster. But he's still basically a scrambler and he doesn't have a strong arm.

The third quarterback, young Bob Davis, played only briefly in two seasons. He's cut in the Beathard mold, anyway, a strong-armed tourist.

So it probably will have to be Beathard, on the strength of his arm and his potential. His touchdown pass

to interception ratio will have to be reversed, however, if the Oilers are to rate any kind of a chance in the East. Last year it was seven TD passes vs. 16 interceptions.

When they won the division title in '67, Oiler fans complained that a lack of competent receivers kept the team from progressing even further. Two rookies, flanker Mac Haik and split end Jim Bierne, improved matters. Haik caught 32 passes, including eight for TDs, and Bierne had 31 receptions. Haik is the streak, the long patterns guy. Bierne doesn't have much speed, but he's clever with the short and medium stuff. The tight end, Alvin Reed, could become one of the best. He's big and fast. Last year he became a much better blocker. There aren't too many strong safeties who can cover him deep. His 46 receptions averaged 16.2 yards, first rate for a tight end.

The draft should bring even further improvement. The No. 2 pick was Jerry Levias of Southern Methodist, the stringy little flanker. If Coach Wally Lemm wanted to run deep patterns on both sides, he might yank Bierne for the much faster Levias in certain situations.

The running game, never noted for its versatility, will have even less now. Woody Campbell, the regular halfback, is with the Army in Vietnam. If he returns at all, it will be while the season is in progress. With Sid Blanks traded to Boston, the only answer for Lemm is to use a second fullback, Roy Hopkins, full-time. He has excellent speed, but in two years he carried the ball only 44 times.

Hoyle Granger is among the best power backs, although his yardage output dropped 346 yards from the previous season. He still has a lot to learn about picking holes. Unless Beathard can open up some defenses with his passing, an awful lot of doors will be shut on Granger and Hopkins.

The best reserves are Ode Burrell,

the ex-wide receiver, and a pair of rookies, Rich Johnson of Illinois and Mike Richardson of SMU.

The Oilers are whistling in the dark about a rookie kicker named Roy Gerela of New Mexico State. He has a lot of leg power, but his six-for-17 field goal output in college draws a ho-hum. The veteran placekickers, John Wittenborn and Wayne Walker, wouldn't get by the first two weeks in most other training camps.

Defensively the Oilers have the makings of a contender. The linebacking is improved, a key trade makes the secondary the East's best and the rush line has great potential.

Outside linebacker George Webster is so good it's frightening. In two years he reached a plateau that takes most linebackers a full career to make. He has the speed to cover any back in the flat and his relentless tackling causes most running attacks to avoid his side. Olen Underwood, on the other side, is several notches below Webster. He'll be pressed to hold his job against Ron Pritchard, the Oilers' best rookie. Garland Boyette, in the middle, sometimes gets fooled, but he's strong and fleet against the run.

Lemm's best move during the off-season was the deal he swung with Boston for cornerback Leroy Mitchell. In Mitchell the Oilers get one of the two best young corners in the AFL. The other one is Miller Farr, already a Houston star. Both excel at man-on-man coverage.

Strong safety Ken Houston has more speed and as much size as almost any man playing his position in either league. The free safety, W.K. Hicks, is an ex-corner who gets fooled once in a while but his powers of recovery can save him. If there is any real weakness in the Oiler secondary, Hicks is it. Zeke Moore and Pete Johns, both third-year men, are the principal reserves and Johnny Peacock of Houston U. is the best newcomer. He may stick.

Cont. on Page 103

1968 RECORD (7-7)

SYMBOLS

*—In military service
 ††—Retired
 **—Traded

21	Kansas City	26
24	Miami	10
14	San Diego	30
15	Oakland	24
7	Miami	24
16	Boston	0
14	New York	20
30	Buffalo	7
27	Cincinnati	7
7	New York	26
38	Denver	17
10	Kansas City	24
35	Buffalo	6
45	Boston	17

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Walker	0	26	8	50
Haik	8	0	0	48
Granger	7	0	0	42
*Campbell	6	0	0	36

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Reed	46	747	5	60	16.2
Haik	32	584	8	59	18.2
Beirne	31	474	4	66	15.3
Granger	26	362	0	55	13.9

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Houston	5	160	2	66	32.0
**Carwell	4	81	1	41	20.3
Farr	3	104	2	52	34.7

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
††Norton	73	3008	64	41.2

PUNT RETURNS

	Retrs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
**Carwell	26	207	0	32	8.0
**Blanks	22	179	0	39	8.1

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Beathard	223	105	1559	66	7	16	47.0
Trull	105	53	864	60	10	3	50.4
Davis	86	33	441	53	0	6	38.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Retrs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Moore	32	787	0	45	24.6
**Carwell	15	335	0	38	22.3

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Beathard, Pete	6-2	207	27	6	Southern California
Trull, Don	6-1	196	28	6	Baylor
Davis, Bob	6-3	208	24	3	Virginia
RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Granger, Hoyle	6-1	225	25	4	Mississippi State
Hopkins, Roy	6-1	225	24	3	Texas Southern
Burrell, Ode	6-0	192	30	6	Mississippi State
Johnson, Rich	6-1	210	21	1	Illinois
Richardson, Mike	5-11	185	21	1	Southern Methodist
RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Beirne, Jim (W)	6-2	196	23	2	Purdue
Haik, Mac (W)	6-1	196	23	2	Mississippi
Reed, Alvin (T)	6-5	230	25	3	Prairie View
Levias, Jerry (W)	5-10	175	22	1	Southern Methodist
Grate, Willie (W)	6-4	225	22	1	South Carolina State
Joiner, Charlie (W)	5-11	185	22	1	Grambling
(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Hines, Glen Ray (T)	6-5	265	26	4	Arkansas
Suggs, Walt (T)	6-5	260	30	8	Mississippi State
Bishop, Sonny (G)	6-2	245	30	8	Fresno State
Regner, Tom (G)	6-1	255	25	3	Notre Dame
Maples, Bobby (C)	6-4	245	27	5	Baylor
Robertson, Bob (T)	6-4	245	23	2	Illinois
LeMoine, Jim (G)	6-2	245	24	3	Utah State
Swatland, Dick (G)	6-3	245	24	2	Notre Dame
Drungo, Elbert (T)	6-5	250	22	1	Tennessee State
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
PLACEMENT KICKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Walker, Wayne	6-2	215	25	3	Northeast Louisiana State
Wittenborn, John	6-2	240	32	12	Southeast Missouri
Gerela, Roy	5-10	185	21	1	New Mexico State

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Bethea, Elvin (E)	6-3	250	24	2	North Carolina A&T
Holmes, Pat (E)	6-5	250	29	6	Texas Tech
Rice, George (T)	6-3	260	25	4	Louisiana State
Parker, Willie (T)	6-2	265	24	3	Arkansas AM&N
Stith, Caryl (E-T)	6-5	265	24	2	Nebraska
Domres, Tom (T)	6-3	255	23	2	Wisconsin
Marshall, Rich (T)	6-4	275	28	5	S.F. Austin
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Webster, George (O)	6-4	223	24	3	Michigan State
Underwood, Olen (O)	6-1	230	27	5	Texas
Boyette, Garland (M)	6-1	245	29	9	Grambling
Rushing, Marion (O)	6-2	230	33	9	Southern Illinois
Stotter, Rich (M)	6-0	225	24	2	Houston
Pritchard, Ron (O)	6-1	225	21	1	Arizona State
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Farr, Miller	6-1	190	25	5	Wichita
Mitchell, Leroy	6-2	200	24	3	Texas Southern
Moore, Zeke	6-1	198	26	3	Lincoln
SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Houston, Ken (S)	6-3	192	25	3	Prairie View
Hicks, W. K. (W)	6-1	195	27	6	Texas Southern
Johns, Pete (S)	6-2	190	24	3	Tulane
Peacock, John (W)	6-2	205	21	1	Houston
(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety					

Performance Quotients

Appendicitis wasn't Beathard's only problem. He was inconsistent even before his belly ache. Trull was surprisingly sharp late last season. He may be late bloomer. Davis needs work. PERF. QT.: 4.

Things could be pretty primitive with Woodie Campbell on MP duty in Vietnam. Hopkins, another fullback, will replace him. He has limited experience. The actual fullback, powerful Granger, suffered in '68 because the defenses were able to set their traps for him. He needs the pressure taken off. The others will see spot duty. PERF. QT.: 3.

Reed is the senior citizen at age 25 and with two years' experience. Oilers went to draft for outside help and got it. Both Bierne and Haik were rookie starters. Mac made every fourth catch a touchdown. And he was playing on a bum leg which required off-season surgery. Levias could be another Bob Hayes, maybe better. Grate a hurdler. Joiner has defensive possibilities. PERF. QT.: 3.

One of the East's best lines. It operates most effectively for power ground game and on rollouts. Hines is due to move up to star class in fourth pro year. Suggs and Bishop are efficient old pros, particularly on pass protection. Maples challenges Morris of Boston as East's best center. Regner will improve. Oilers could use some depth. If LeMoine can be spared from backup tight end duties, he could develop into formidable guard. Robertson filled in occasionally as a rookie and was enthusiastic on suicide squad. Drungo, No. 3 draft pick, was college tight end. Swatland fights for a job. PERF. QT.: 3.

Wittenborn lost his job to Walker in mid-season, but Wayne was no ball of fire. Gerela will get a long look on the basis of power alone. His field goal average wasn't much in college. PERF. QT.: 5.

This could be the team's key unit. It was spectacular in '67, when the Oilers won the Eastern title, then dipped last term. Bethea, who began his career as an offensive lineman, looked like he had the zip to become a super end. Holmes is All Star stuff at his best. Injuries slowed Rice last year, but he's quick and mean. Parker needs someone to push him. Stith, who underwent knee surgery last summer, or Domres could be the pusher. Marshall ex-starter. PERF. QT.: 3.

About the third game last year they started putting the detour sign on Webster's side. Only a three year pro, George may be the best outside backer around. If Pritchard, No. 1 draft pick, is as good as the reports say, the detour sign may go up on his side eventually. Big, tough Boyette does steady job in middle. If Pritchard wants to play, he has to bench Underwood. Rushing, Stotter fill in. PERF. QT.: 3.

Best in the AFL, maybe in either league. Oilers pulled stunner when they traded with Boston for Mitchell. Farr top star. Both excel at one-on-one coverage. Moore watches from sidelines. PERF. QT.: 1.

Houston should become as good a strong safety as Farr and Mitchell are corners. He's fastest in the AFL at his position. Hicks a hitter at free safety. He's an ex-corner. Peacock a quality rookie. Johns hasn't played much. PERF. QT.: 3.

AFL EAST

BUFFALO BILLS

Prediction: Third

Paul Maguire, the carefree punter, performed his specialty an even 100 times for the Bills last year. The final half dozen came in the Astro-dome. Maguire claimed he got additional yardage "with the air conditioner at my back."

The punts should be fewer in 1969. So should the wisecracks for a football team that became far too loose since its championship days of the mid-60's. Johnny Rauch, who won a couple of titles at Oakland, was brought in to work the cure on a club that won only one game last year.

The Bills' collapse wasn't anything gradual. From a third straight Eastern Division title in 1966, they dropped to four victories in '67 and then one in '68. Age was only part of the reason. So were a plague of injuries.

The Bills were operating with a tinker-toy offense. At one point last year they tried a shotgun attack. A cork popped out the barrel of the shotgun and this little flag, reading "Bang" flew out. Someone asked Rauch about his principal goal in this rebuilding year. "To construct a pro-style passing attack," he said.

Rauch brings a completely different style of attack to Buffalo. He likes to throw the ball. Often. To his fullback and halfback as well as his wide receivers and tight end. If he can find some blockers who can lead interference, he'll show the folks something of the power sweep he used at Oakland. His pass patterns don't request a receiver to do something he doesn't do well. If an end doesn't like heavy traffic in the middle, that end runs sideline patterns, square-ins, turns, etc.

Rauch must have thought Cecil B. De Mille set up his quarterback roster. There were six of them present at the start. Not exactly a cast of thousands, but enough to clutter up a quarterback meeting. He'll have to choose between two veterans, Jack Kemp and Tom Flores, and two developing kids, Kay

Stephenson and Dan Darragh, and he'll also have a look at rookie Jim Harris as a long-range possibility, especially if one of the vets make it and Rauch feels that neither Stephenson nor Darragh will be his quarterback of the future.

Kemp, Flores, Stephenson and Darragh all were hurt last year, Kemp during a practice session. Utility man Ed Rutkowski finished the season as the emergency quarterback. Rauch gave him the thanks of the club and told him he was a receiver in the future. The controls probably will be returned to Kemp.

Whoever plays quarterback will be handing off to a pair of rookie running backs. But what rookies! O.J. Simpson comes galloping out of the West with a solid gold reputation. Rauch actually quivers when he thinks of O.J. lining up in his double wing formation. The fullback is the No. 2 draft pick, Oregon State's huge Bill Enyart. Some scouts saw Enyart as a linebacker, but for Rauch's purposes he'll be the ideal complement to O.J. The coach says he'll even use Enyart on deep pass patterns.

Rauch coaxed Bill Miller into retiring as a player to tutor Buffalo's young wide receivers. Haven Moses has every physical credential. All he needs is a quarterback and some decent pass patterns. Most of Miller's work needs to be done on Richard Trapp, Bobby Crockett and Monte Ledbetter. All have speed and moves, along with a load of rough edges for the assistant coach to work on.

All those injured quarterbacks weren't just accident prone. The performance of the Buffalo line last year should boost Kemp's insurance rates. In an effort to improve matters, Rauch switched tight end Paul Costa to tackle. Billy Masters inherits Costa's job. The other Buffalo tackles, Stew Barber and Dick Cunningham, are linebacker size and just get overpowered by the big defensive ends.

Ever since they came into the league, the Bills' principal bag has been defense. It still is. Very little of the Buffalo decline has been blamed on the hold 'em unit. The line is big and tough, the linebackers rangy and swift and the defensive backs canny.

But while Rauch concentrates on reviving his offense, he has to pay more than a bit of attention to his defensive line. Tackle Tom Sestak, 33, and end Tom Day, 34, have an awful lot of mileage on them. The fans might be disappointed if young Bob Taterek forges ahead of Sestak and rookie Julian Nunamaker takes Day's job, but the coaches won't.

Mike Stratton is rated just a shade below Bobby Bell of Kansas City and George Webster of Houston as an outside linebacker, but he sometimes goes into a slump where his tackling gets sloppy. Paul Guidry has similar power and speed on the other side. He should pick up the needed know-how this year. At 31, middle backer Harry Jacobs should have something left, even though he's vulnerable on pass defense at times.

The biggest worry is the change in coaches for the secondary. The veteran defensive backs leaned almost mystically upon Richie McCabe, who left to take a similar job with the Oakland Raiders. He was replaced by Claude Gibson, who had similar charisma at Boston. Tough Butch Byrd has one corner sewed up, even though he has a weakness as a tackler. The other cornerback, Booker Edgeron, had a great year and may be over his siege of injuries. There are four seasoned safeties, led by quick George Saines and swift Tommy Janik. The stand-ins are intelligent Hagood Clarke and John Pitts, still a blue-ribbon prospect.

Don't expect any miracles, but the Bills should be able to climb past Boston and Miami if Rauch can produce a respectable way to put some points on the scoreboard.

1968 RECORD (1-12-1)

SYMBOL

+—Two-point conversion

7	Boston	16
6	Oakland	48
23	Cincinnati	34
37	New York	35
7	Kansas City	18
14	Miami	14
6	Boston	23
7	Houston	30
21	New York	25
17	Miami	21
6	San Diego	21
32	Denver	34
10	Oakland	13
6	Houston	35

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Alford	0	15	14	57
McDermott	4	1+	0	26
Cappadona	3	1+	0	20
Anderson	3	0	0	18

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Darragh	215	92	917	41	3	4	42.8
Rutkowski	100	41	380	39	0	6	41.0
Stephenson	79	29	364	55	4	7	36.7

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Moses	42	633	2	55	15.1
Trapp	24	235	0	27	9.8
Anderson	22	140	0	23	6.4
McDermott	20	115	1	37	5.8

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Byrd	6	76	1	53	12.6
Edgersen	4	100	2	45	25.0
Janik	3	137	1	100	45.6

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Maguire	100	4175	61	41.8

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Clarke	29	241	1	82	8.3
Trapp	5	26	0	11	5.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Anderson	39	971	1	100	24.9

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Kemp, Jack	6-0	204	34	12	Occidental
Flores, Tom	6-1	202	31	9	Pacific
Stephenson, Kay	6-1	210	24	3	Florida
Darragh, Dan	6-3	196	22	2	William and Mary
Harris, James	6-3	215	21	1	Grambling

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Simpson, O. J.	6-2	204	21	1	Southern California
Enyart, Bill	6-4	236	21	1	Oregon State
Anderson, Max	5-8	180	24	2	Arizona State
Gregory, Ben	6-0	220	22	2	Nebraska
McDermott, Gary	6-1	211	22	2	Tulsa
Cappadona, Bob	6-1	230	26	4	Northeastern

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Moses, Haven (W)	6-3	200	23	2	San Diego State
Trapp, Richard (W)	6-1	174	22	2	Florida
Masters, Billy (T)	6-5	235	25	3	Louisiana State
Crockett, Bobby (W)	6-2	200	26	3	Arkansas
Ledbetter, Monte (W)	6-2	185	26	3	NW Louisiana State
Rutkowski, Ed (W)	6-0	200	28	7	Notre Dame
Ferguson, Charley (T)	6-5	224	29	8	Tennessee State

(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Cunningham, Dick (T)	6-2	244	24	3	Arkansas
Barber, Stew (T)	6-2	248	30	9	Penn State
Shaw, Billy (G)	6-2	252	30	9	Georgia Tech
O'Donnell, Joe (G)	6-2	252	28	5	Michigan
Bemiller, Al (C)	6-3	243	30	9	Syracuse
Kindig, Howard (C)	6-6	264	28	5	Los Angeles State
Costa, Paul (T)	6-4	248	27	5	Notre Dame
Richey, Mike (T)	6-5	250	21	1	North Carolina

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

PLACEMENT KICKER	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Alford, Bruce	6-0	185	24	2	Texas Christian

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
McDole, Ron (E)	6-3	269	30	9	Nebraska
Day, Tom (E)	6-2	265	34	10	North Carolina A&T
Dunaway, Jim (T)	6-4	282	27	7	Mississippi
Sestak, Tom (T)	6-4	262	33	8	McNeese
Tatarek, Bob (T)	6-4	255	23	2	Miami
Nunamaker, Julian (E)	6-3	250	22	1	Tennessee-Martin
Mayes, Ben (T)	6-4	235	23	1	Drake

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Stratton, Mike (O)	6-3	231	28	8	Tennessee
Guidry, Paul (O)	6-2	228	25	4	McNeese
Jacobs, Harry (M)	6-1	226	31	10	Bradley
Sch't'nh'm'r, Marty (M-O)	6-3	224	25	5	Pittsburgh
Maguire, Paul (O)	6-0	228	31	10	Citadel
Chandler, Edgar (M)	6-3	222	23	2	Georgia

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Byrd, Butch	6-0	196	27	6	Boston University
Edgersen, Booker	5-10	183	30	8	Western Illinois
Lawson, Jerome	5-11	192	23	2	Utah
Baines, Ron	5-11	180	23	1	Montana

SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Janik, Tom (S)	6-3	195	28	7	Texas A&I
Saimes, George (W)	5-10	185	27	7	Michigan State
Pitts, John (S)	6-4	215	24	3	Arizona State
Clarke, Hagood (W-S)	6-0	192	27	6	Florida

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Who said there is safety in numbers? Kemp and Flores battle age and old injuries. Stephenson and Darragh battle youth and fresh injuries which resulted from shoddy pass protection. Harris a longshot. Rauch, an ex-quarterback, should help Kemp. Unless one man asserts himself, the whole offense is in trouble. PERF. QT.: 4.

It's a foregone conclusion that both starters will be rookies. Skeptics say O.J. isn't worth what his agents claimed, but he should make a huge difference in the Bills' poor running game. Enyart is conceded the fullback job because the knee injury suffered by Gregory late in '68 looks like it won't heal until mid-'69. Anderson should be much sharper as spot player. McDermott, Cappadona in reserve. PERF. QT.: 4.

The important receivers are mostly kids. Moses came up with super credentials, but was handicapped by a poorly designed offense and no quarterbacking. Under Coach Rauch and with healthy passers, he should be a whiz. Trapp has speed and hands, though he appears fragile. With Paul Costa slated for tour at offensive tackle, Masters inherits tight end with Ferguson in reserve. Crockett's been hexed by injuries. Ledbetter has a chance. Tight fit for Rutkowski. PERF. QT.: 4.

No. 1 trouble spot. Need big comeback by O'Donnell, a knee victim in '68, and a better year from one-time star Shaw. Costa switched from tight end to shore up pass protection. Barber, Cunningham too small to handle huge defensive ends. Latter has best chance due to youth. If ex-defensive end Kindig can win job at center, Bemiller will swing at tackle, guard, center. Kindig looked good there at end of last season. Bemiller has played all three positions during his career. Best rookie hope is Richey. Bob Kalsu, '68 starting guard, in Army. PERF. QT.: 5.

14-for-24 not bad, but needs work from beyond 35. PERF. QT.: 4.

They put on a good show in '68 despite the team's 1-12-1 record. Now the worry is that it might have been the last gasp for Day, 34, and Sestak, 33. Day, picked up by his old team when the Chargers dropped him, is particularly vulnerable. Little All-America Nunamaker is seen as his successor. Tatarek, despite a slow rookie year, could replace Sestak. McDole, the total hustler, is outstanding and Dunaway should be a top one for many more years. Mayes may sneak in. PERF. QT.: 3.

Efficiency dropped when John Tracey retired and Jacobs had a sub-par season. But Guidry, fast and talented, is maturing and Jacobs can be a starter for a couple of more years. If Harry doesn't rebound, either Schottenheimer or Chandler, switched from offensive tackle, his job in college, could come on. Stratton among top outside men in game. He has plenty left. Maguire punts. PERF. QT.: 4.

Receiver runs into Byrd's territory at his peril. Butch is headhunter. Edgersen stayed healthy for a change and had one of his best years. If he gets hurt this year, Bills are in trouble again. Lawson taxied in '68. Baines is versatile. PERF. QT.: 3.

Best-protected spot on club. Janik can play either side and both corners. He's far better at deep positions, however. Saimes remains AFL's best free safety. Clarke heady vet who can play either side. Pitts still a super prospect. PERF. QT.: 3.

AFL EAST

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Prediction: Fourth

In Miami, where they name public thoroughfares after such historical figures as Arthur Godfrey and Ed Sullivan, a gradual success is not usually something greatly admired.

Which explains some of the impatience the natives show toward their professional football team, the Dolphins. In each of the last two seasons the team has shown improvement in its won-lost record. George Wilson, the head coach, predicts another slight improvement this year, from 5-8-1 in '68 to an even .500. He has his fingers tightly crossed.

Wilson is like a man working an extremely tricky jigsaw puzzle, where key parts are mailed to him once a year.

He got Karl Noonan and Frank Emanuel one year. Then Bob Griese and Jack Clancy the next. Then Jim Kiick, Larry Csonka and Dick Anderson last year.

This year they mailed him Bill Stanfill, Bob Heinz, Norm McBride, Mercury Morris and Karl Kremser. The hope is that all of them are key parts.

Much of the Dolphins' struggle may be traced back to their original season as an expansion team. Wilson might have leaned too heavily upon veteran players in a bid for instant respectability. Unlike Cincinnati last year, the Dolphins in '65 made use of only a few youngsters. But then Paul Brown had a much more useful first draft than Wilson.

Now Miami's destiny revolves around Griese, the quick-thinking quarterback. He does not have great size or a particularly strong arm, but he may be the most intelligent dissector of defenses since the legendary Bobby Layne.

Considering his handicaps—a poor offensive line, inexperienced running backs, no adequate tight end—almost anything Miami accomplishes represents a personal triumph for Griese. The long ball is used only occasionally,

mainly as a threat. Instead he prefers to pick his way down the field, first-downing it to the goal line. He throws to his backs well and defeats the blitz by the simple measure of "dumping off" to a back held in tight. This requires instant recognition of a defense and the poise to check off to just the right play at the line of scrimmage.

Things could be a little easier for Bob this time if wide receiver Jack Clancy can shake the aftereffects of a knee injury that kept him dry-docked in 1968. Clancy caught 67 passes as a rookie. In the exhibition games last year he looked even better. With Clancy unavailable, Griese turned to Noonan, who developed quickly, catching 58 passes and scoring 11 times. With a little experience they could rival the Jets' pair of George Sauer and Don Maynard or the San Diego combination of Lance Alworth and Gary Garrison.

What hurts the passing game is the absence of a tight end. Doug Moreau is too light for the blocking assignments and too slow to hurt anyone as a receiver. Wilson drafted Jim Cox with the job in mind a year ago, but he's been injured constantly. Howard Twilley, who has no speed, is the best reserve.

The running back situation could improve a lot when Csonka, the stallion from Syracuse, learns to use his blockers and runs to daylight. Griese is not very tolerant of mistakes like that, so Csonka won't be called upon very often until he smooths out.

Jim Kiick, the stubby halfback from Wyoming, made a bigger impression than Csonka. Quick, rather than fast, Kiick is very tough going up the middle. Griese favors him on short pass patterns. Jim is a clever open-field runner after catching a pass. Stan Mitchell's lack of speed means a long drop in quality when he's in the lineup. Morris, a phenomenal ground gainer in college, should make a dent if he's spotted correctly.

The ground attack is further limited by the line, four-fifths of which is composed of players acquired in the '65 expansion draft. Doug Crusan represents the only hope for the future. The big blond tackle from Indiana was only so-so in his rookie season.

The field-goal kicking is abominable. Jimmy Keyes missed seven of the eight kicks he tried from beyond the 30. Moreau was no improvement when he was given a shot. A summer Service hitch cost Keyes an important training camp so the future may depend upon a rookie, Karl Kremser of Tennessee.

But of all the Dolphin problems, none is as urgent as that of the defensive unit. Those who try to operate without a pass rush usually perish. The Miami pass rushers might be better off sending threatening letters. That's the reason Stanfill and Heinz were the first two draft picks. Both will be thrown into the breach almost immediately.

End Mel Branch goes way back to the original LSU Chinese Bandits. Paul Dietzel, the coach who originated that gimmick, has moved his tent to two other colleges since then, so you know Branch is not exactly a youth. Tackle John Richardson is handicapped in speed, size and quickness. End Manny Fernandez showed signs of becoming a good pass rusher last year.

Wilson made a good trade to help his linebacking. He got middle backer Nick Buoniconti from Boston for sub quarterback Kim Hammond and outside linebacker John Bramlett. Buoniconti is the league's best if his knee is mended. At 28, he should have a lot of mileage remaining. Hammond was not going to play with Griese available and Bramlett was in the coach's doghouse. Nick should increase the effectiveness of the outside backers. Emanuel, mystified by the duties of the middle man, might be more useful on the outside. If not maybe McBride, a promising freshman, can help. Randall

Cont. on Page 104

1968 RECORD (5-8-1)

10	Houston	24
21	Oakland	47
3	Kansas City	48
24	Houston	7
14	Buffalo	14
24	Cincinnati	22
14	Denver	21
28	San Diego	34
21	Buffalo	17
21	Cincinnati	38
34	Boston	10
17	New York	35
38	Boston	7
7	New York	31

SYMBOLS

††—Retired
 **—Traded

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Noonan	11	0	0	66
Keyes	0	30	7	51
Csonka	7	0	0	42
Moreau	3	6	1	27

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Griese	355	186	2473	50	21	16	52.4
Norton	41	17	254	65	0	4	41.5

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Noonan	58	760	11	50	13.1
Kiick	44	422	0	38	9.6
Twilley	39	604	1	40	15.5
Moreau	27	365	3	28	13.5
Kiick	165	621	4	25	3.8
Csonka	138	540	6	40	3.9
Griese	42	230	1	35	5.5
Mitchell	54	176	1	30	3.3

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Kiick	165	621	4	25	3.8
Csonka	138	540	6	40	3.9
Griese	42	230	1	35	5.5
Mitchell	54	176	1	30	3.3

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Anderson	8	230	1	96	28.8
††West	4	102	0	32	25.5
Warren	2	27	0	18	13.5
**Bramlett	2	14	0	14	7.0
Emanuel	2	8	0	6	4.0

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Seiple	75	3044	60	40.6

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Neff	8	71	0	20	8.9
Milton	6	55	0	26	9.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Milton	18	408	0	74	22.7
Warren	10	227	0	36	22.7
Anderson	6	106	0	25	17.7

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Griese, Bob	6-1	190	24	3	Purdue
Norton, Rick	6-2	190	25	4	Kentucky
RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Kiick, Jim	5-11	215	22	2	Wyoming
Csonka, Larry	6-3	240	22	2	Syracuse
Mitchell, Stan	6-2	225	24	4	Tennessee
Price, Sam	5-11	215	25	4	Illinois
Morris, Mercury	5-10	180	22	1	West Texas State
Seiple, Larry	6-0	213	24	3	Kentucky

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Noonan, Karl (W)	6-3	190	25	4	Iowa
Clancy, Jack (W)	6-1	195	25	2	Michigan
Moreau, Doug (T)	6-1	215	24	4	Louisiana State
Twilley, Howard (W)	5-10	180	25	4	Tulsa
Milton, Gene (W)	5-10	170	24	2	Florida A&M
Hines, Jim (W)	5-10	178	23	1	Texas Southern
Cox, Jim (T)	6-2	227	22	2	Miami

(W)—Wide Receiver: Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Crusan, Doug (T)	6-5	255	22	2	Indiana
Evans, Norman (T)	6-5	250	26	5	Texas Christian
Neighbors, Billy (G)	5-11	250	29	8	Alabama
Williams, Maxie (G)	6-4	250	29	5	Southeast Louisiana
Goode, Tom (C)	6-3	250	30	7	Mississippi State
Pyburn, Jack (T)	6-6	250	24	3	Texas A&M
Little, Larry (G)	6-1	270	23	3	Bethune-Cookman
Tuck, Ed (G)	6-3	240	21	1	Notre Dame
Nomina, Tom (T-G)	6-3	260	27	7	Miami (Ohio)

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

PLACEMENT KICKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Keyes, Jimmy	6-2	225	25	2	Mississippi
Kremser, Carl	6-0	180	21	1	Tennessee

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Branch, Mel (E)	6-1	235	32	10	Louisiana State
Stanfill, Bill (E)	6-5	260	21	1	Georgia
Richardson, John (T)	6-2	260	24	3	UCLA
Heinz, Bob (T)	6-6	265	21	1	Pacific
Fernandez, Manny (E)	6-2	250	22	2	Utah
Urbanek, Jim (T)	6-4	270	23	2	Mississippi
Riley, Jim (E)	6-4	250	24	3	Oklahoma

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Edmunds, Randall (O)	6-2	220	23	2	Georgia Tech
Emanuel, Frank (O)	6-3	225	26	4	Tennessee
Buoniconiti, Nick (M)	5-11	220	28	8	Notre Dame
McBride, Norman (O)	6-3	235	21	1	Idaho
McCullers, Dale (O)	6-1	212	22	1	Florida State
Weisacosky, Ed (M-O)	6-1	230	25	3	Miami

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Warren, Jim	5-11	175	29	6	Illinois
Westmoreland, Dick	6-1	195	28	7	North Carolina A&T
Pearson, Willie	6-0	180	22	1	North Carolina A&T
Washington, Dick	6-1	205	23	2	Bethune-Cookman

SAFETIES	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Petrella, Bob (S)	6-0	185	24	4	Tennessee
Anderson, Dick (W)	6-2	205	23	2	Colorado
Neff, Bob (W)	5-11	180	25	4	S. F. Austin
Beier, Tom (S)	5-11	185	24	2	Miami

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side: "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

The thinking man's quarterback, Griese ranks behind only Namath among young QBs in pro football. Norton so-so. PERF. QT.: 3.

Should be big improvement over start of last year. Kiick came in with far less ink than Csonka, but played better. He's particularly tough as a pass receiver. Larry has to look for best holes, learn some finesse. Head injury as a rookie worries Miami brass, too. Coach plans to spot Morris. He should be effective as kick returner. Mitchell a willing worker. Price's days may be numbered. Seiple is the punter. PERF. QT.: 4.

If Clancy makes it back after knee surgery, this should be something to frighten defensive backs. After Jack got hurt, Noonan picked up his sword and caught 58 passes, 11 for scores. Rather than burning speed, each depends on moves and knowledge to get open. Moreau's really no tight end, but Cox hasn't been well long enough to take the job away from him. Twilley catches shorties. Milton excites Dolphins more than Hines, the Olympic ace. PERF. QT.: 3.

Possibly the weakest outfit in the league. It's a good thing Griese has quick feet. Evans, Neighbors, Williams and Goode all are someone else's discards. At least three should have been replaced long ago. Crusan had bad moments as a rookie, but his potential remains high. He's only offensive lineman ever drafted high by Dolphins. Pyburn has size, but lack of speed, strength hurts him. Nomina makes questionable shift after six seasons on defense. Tuck labored anonymously at Notre Dame. Little came in trade from San Diego and may help here. More deals can be expected. PERF. QT.: 5.

Most inconsistent kicking in pro ball. Summertime service hitch didn't help Keyes. Kremser showed strong leg at Tennessee. PERF. QT.: 5.

Youth seems the only answer to a situation which has become desperate. Stanfill won the Outland Trophy as the best collegiate lineman, but as a tackle. He's stationed at end in the hope he'll give immediate boost to pass rush. Heinz has great size, but he's not yet as advanced as Stanfill. Branch's savvy gives him short jump on aggressive Fernandez. Richardson a plugger. Urbanek and Riley represent major disappointments. Both were highly touted in college. PERF. QT.: 5.

Buoniconiti should make a big noise. Dolphins have been looking for a defensive leader for a long time. He answers the description. Maybe switching Emanuel to outside will shake him from lethargy. Edmunds did well as a rookie. McBride, a defensive end at Utah, has the pizzazz to win a starting job. Weisacosky, a hometown boy, moves in from the outside. McCullers is small, green. Emanuel is the key. PERF. QT.: 4.

There are plenty of worse corners than Westmoreland and Warren, a pair of ex-Chargers. They'd look a lot sharper if baled out by a decent pass rush. Coaches like looks of Pearson, a future bet. Washington may develop in second year. PERF. QT.: 3.

Strange move when Anderson was switched to free safety from strong side. Miami scouts said he was drafted for only one job—strong safety. If he's playing out of position it will hurt. Petrella mighty small for big tight ends. Subs Neff, Beier questionable. PERF. QT.: 4.

AFL EAST

BOSTON PATRIOTS

Prediction: Fifth

How clean does a new broom sweep? Not clean enough in Boston, even with vigorous Clive Rush doing the sweeping.

Rush is making the big effort to do a repair job on the decaying Pats, but they just don't have enough good football players to beat even the mediocre clubs.

Boston's bag always was defense. Even when the Patriots were winning big a couple of years ago, it was the defense that was chiefly responsible, with little more than moral support from a nickle-and-dime offense.

But now some of the big names on the defensive unit are gone or going. Nick Buoniconti, the fiery middle linebacker, is in Miami. They say tackle Jim Hunt has had it. End Larry Eisenhauer is nursing a questionable knee. Bob Dee is retired. Tommy Addison is retired. Leroy Mitchell, one of the bright new stars, was traded to Houston for quantity.

What Rush has left are problems, the biggest problems in the AFL.

His thorniest one is that he has no quarterback. He'll give Mike Taliaferro another shot at the job because Mike played for him in New York. But Taliaferro's passing was unbelievably bad after he came to Boston in a trade last year. His lack of leadership was an even bigger disappointment. Free agent rookie Tom Sherman won the job by default. He can inspire a team, but he has a third-rate passing arm.

One of Rush's first acts when he took the head coaching job last winter was to trade Buoniconti to the Dolphins for quarterback Kim Hammond and outside linebacker Johnny Bramlett.

Hammond could be the quarterback of the future. If Taliaferro and Sherman don't look any better than they did last year, he may be the quarterback of the present, even though he did little besides observe Bob Griese in his rookie year at

Miami. Hammond sets up well and has a pretty fair arm, although his delivery appears awkward.

Problem No. 2 on offense is full-back Jim Nance. Nance, if his injured ankle is healed, is the best power runner in the AFL. He can control the ball for you or he can go all the way if the hole blinks open wide enough. Big Jim also is capable of protecting a young quarterback. But he played on a bad ankle when he should have been resting last year and the Pats are worried about the aftereffects.

Even when Nance was accumulating yardage by the barrelful a few years ago, the general conclusion was that he could have been far more effective if the Pats could locate an outside runner to keep the defenses honest. That search goes on. Sid Blanks, acquired from Houston in the Mitchell trade, is a new candidate. R.C. Gamble, who started fast as a rookie then swooned, is another. But the best bet may be rookie Carl Garrett, the Little All-America from New Mexico Highlands. He has speed and strength and amazing body control.

Chances are both wide receivers will be new. The flanker should be swift Charles Frazier, who had a peaks and valleys career with the Oilers. Unless all the scouting reports were wrong, Ron Sellers will be the split end. The scouts have been saying that Sellers has been ready to start in the pros since his junior year at Florida State. He's big, rangy and fast. If Hammond wins the quarterback job it will be another plus for Ron. They were college battery-mates.

Frazier comes to the Patriots as part of Rush's other big deal. Mitchell, the bright young cornerback, was dealt to the Oilers for Frazier, middle linebacker Ron Caveness, corner Larry Carwell and halfback Sid Blanks. Rush was almost compelled to make some sort of deal for quantity.

Last year's Pats finished the season four men under the 40-player limit. Several of the 36 active players had been picked up from minor-league teams.

The incumbent wide receivers, Aaron Marsh and Art Graham, didn't impress the new boss. Marsh has plenty of skills, but he has to become more consistent than he was as a rookie. Graham's medical history makes him undependable. The tight end, Jim Whalen, is a good medium and short receiver, but at 210 pounds he doesn't bruise many linebackers with his blocking.

The offense could get a lift if Gino Cappelletti can find the field goal range again. After eight outstanding seasons, Gino had a mediocre year, missing badly from beyond the 40. A large part of the trouble might have been the absence of Babe Parilli, Gino's old placement holder, who was traded to New York. Cappelletti is an unusually fast kicker and not just anyone can hold well for him.

The Pats have an unbalanced line, in the figurative sense. Center Jon Morris, guard Len St. Jean and tackle Tommy Neville did well, but the other two spots need shoring up. Rush decided not to switch young Tommy Funchess from tackle to defensive end. He'll also take another look at guard-tackle Charley Long, in disfavor in recent years. A mature rookie, 27-year-old Mike Montler of Colorado, has the ability to step in as either a guard or tackle in the starting lineup. Another freshman, Rick Hackley of New Mexico State, has tackle possibilities.

There could be a total collapse on defense if: A) Carwell can't give at least a decent imitation of Mitchell; B) Jim Cheyunski or Caveness can't play middle linebacker with something of Buoniconti's efficiency; C) Hunt is truly washed up and, D) Eisenhauer's knee isn't 100 percent.

The secondary is shaky because Mitchell is gone and two other stal-

Cont. on Page 104

1968 RECORD (4-10)

SYMBOL

**—Traded

16	Buffalo	7
31	New York	47
20	Denver	17
10	Oakland	41
0	Houston	16
23	Buffalo	6
14	New York	48
14	Denver	35
17	San Diego	27
17	Kansas City	31
10	Miami	34
33	Cincinnati	14
7	Miami	38
17	Houston	45

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Cappelletti	2	26	15	83
Whalen	7	0	0	42
Marsh	4	0	0	24
Nance	4	0	0	24

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Longest	TDs	Ints	Pct
Sherman	226	90	1199	87	12	16	39.8
Taliaferro	176	67	889	70	4	15	38.1

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg.
Whalen	47	718	7	87	15.3
Marsh	19	331	4	70	17.4
Murphy	18	268	0	26	14.9
Graham	16	242	1	34	15.1

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
**Mitchell	7	41	0	20	5.9
Philpott	4	31	0	17	7.8
**Buoniconti	3	22	0	14	7.3

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Longest	Avg
Scarpitto	34	1382	87	40.6
Swanson	62	2449	57	39.5

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Nance	177	593	4	30	3.4
Gamble	78	311	1	45	4.0
**Thomas	88	215	2	25	2.4
Garron	36	97	1	18	2.7

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Porter	22	111	0	24	6.1
B. Johnson	10	34	0	9	3.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Longest	Avg
Porter	36	812	0	61	22.6
B. Johnson	22	442	0	36	30.1

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Taliaferro, Mike	6-2	205	28	6	Illinois
Sherman, Tom	6-0	190	22	2	Penn State
Hammond, Kim	6-0	190	23	2	Florida State
Jackson, Onree	6-5	208	21	1	Alabama A&M

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Nance, Jim	6-1	240	26	5	Syracuse
Blanks, Sid	6-0	208	26	5	Texas A&I
Gamble, R. C.	6-3	220	22	2	South Carolina State
Garron, Larry	6-1	195	32	10	Western Illinois
Garrett, Carl	5-11	210	21	1	New Mexico Highlands
Gladieux, Bob	5-11	190	22	1	Notre Dame

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Sellers, Ron (W)	6-4	198	22	1	Florida State
Frazier, Charles (W)	6-0	192	28	8	Prairie View
Whalen, Jim (T)	6-2	210	25	5	Boston College
Graham, Art (W)	6-1	205	28	7	Boston College
Marsh, Aaron (W)	6-1	190	23	2	Eastern Kentucky State
Cappelletti, Gino (W)	6-0	190	35	10	Minnesota

(W)—Wide Receiver; Split End or Flanker (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Neville, Tom (T)	6-4	255	25	5	Mississippi State
Oakes, Don (T)	6-3	255	30	9	Virginia Tech
St. Jean, Len (G)	6-1	245	27	6	Northern Michigan
Canale, Justin (G)	6-2	250	25	5	Mississippi State
Morris, Jon (C)	6-4	240	26	6	Holy Cross
Feldhausen, Paul (T)	6-6	270	23	2	Northland
Long, Charley (G-T)	6-3	250	30	9	Chattanooga
Montler, Mike (G)	6-4	270	25	1	Colorado
Hackley, Rick (T)	6-4	276	22	1	New Mexico State

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

PLACEMENT KICKER	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Cappelletti, Gino	6-0	190	35	10	Minnesota

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Eisenhauer, Larry (E)	6-5	255	29	9	Boston College
Funchess, Tom (E)	6-6	260	22	2	Jackson State
Antwine, Houston (T)	6-0	270	30	9	Southern Illinois
Hunt, Jim (T)	5-11	255	31	10	Prairie View
Byrd, Dennis (T-E)	6-4	260	22	2	North Carolina State
Toner, Ed (T)	6-2	250	25	2	Massachusetts
Witt, Mel (E-T)	6-3	265	23	3	Arlington State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Philpott, Ed (O)	6-3	240	23	3	Miami (Ohio)
Satcher, Doug (O)	6-0	220	25	4	Southern Mississippi
Cheyunski, Jim (M)	6-2	220	23	2	Syracuse
Bramlett, John (O)	6-1	220	26	5	Memphis State
Williamson, John (O)	6-2	220	26	6	Louisiana Tech
Caveness, Ron (M)	6-1	225	25	5	Arkansas
Ilg, Ray (M)	6-1	220	22	3	Colgate

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Johnson, Daryl	5-11	190	23	2	Morgan State
Carwell, Larry	6-2	192	24	5	Iowa State
Porter, Willie	5-11	195	23	2	Texas Southern
Outlaw, John	5-10	180	22	2	Jackson State

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wgt	Age	Exp	College
Charles, John (S)	6-1	200	24	3	Purdue
Webb, Don (W)	5-10	195	29	9	Iowa State
Johnson, Billy (S)	5-10	180	23	4	Nebraska
McMahon, Art (W)	5-11	185	22	2	North Carolina State

(S)—Strong Side (W)—Weak Side; "Free" Safety

Taliaferro bitter disappointment in '68, but he'll get fresh look from Rush, who coached him in New York. Sherman won the job by default late in the season. Hammond, who came from Miami in Buoniconti trade, looms as future favorite. Jackson will observe. PERF. QT.: 5.

Everything depends on Nance's ankle. If it's healed, the only question is who does the outside running to complement him. If it's not, things may resemble a Chinese fire drill. Blanks may have lost everything. Same for Garron. Gamble skidded after fast start as rookie. Answer could be Garrett, swift Little All-America. Gladieux was no great ball of fire at Notre Dame. PERF. QT.: 4.

One of new coach's biggest headaches. Could have brand-new wide guys if Frazier can relocate talent he once showed with Oilers. Sellers considered a can't-miss player. Both have Class AAA speed. Marsh played a couple of good games as a freshman, but not often enough to impress the right people. Cappy mainly a kicker, now. Vital catches are Whalen's trademark. Graham will see action. PERF. QT.: 4.

There's opportunity here for Montler. At 25 he isn't the average rookie. Colorado All-America could win regular tackle or guard spot. Neville one of the better Eastern tackles and St. Jean a fiery competitor at guard. Tom Funchess pushed Oakes out of the lineup with just a fair rookie showing and now Tom may play defensive end. No rockets launched over Canale's play. Long, in disfavor with Mike Holovak, could play more under Coach Rush. Morris probably the best center in the East, but linebacker John Williamson has to snap ball on punts and field goal tries. Feldhausen, Hackley fight for a spot. PERF. QT.: 4.

Off year for Gino might have been due to new holder. PERF. QT.: 2.

Not the feared outfit it used to be, but could be nasty with improved outlook. Antwine, the squat barrel of a tackle, is still the pinwheel, but Eisenhauer will have to come back big from knee surgery if unit is to bear even a faint resemblance to old. Some Pats suspect Hunt is far over the hill. Coach has changed his mind a couple of times about Byrd moving into tackle and Funchess converting from offensive tackle to defensive end. Toner, Witt are bench strength. PERF. QT.: 4.

Another aspect of the Pats' defense that deteriorated over last few seasons. Big news is departure of All-AFL middle linebacker Nick Buoniconti, traded to Miami. Young Cheyunski came fast at season's end when he replaced injured Nick. Caveness, acquired from Oilers, should push him. Philpott's questionable eyesight hurts on pass defense. He's no ballet dancer, either. Satcher not good 'nuff. Bramlett will hit people. Williamson, Ilg have weaknesses. PERF. QT.: 5.

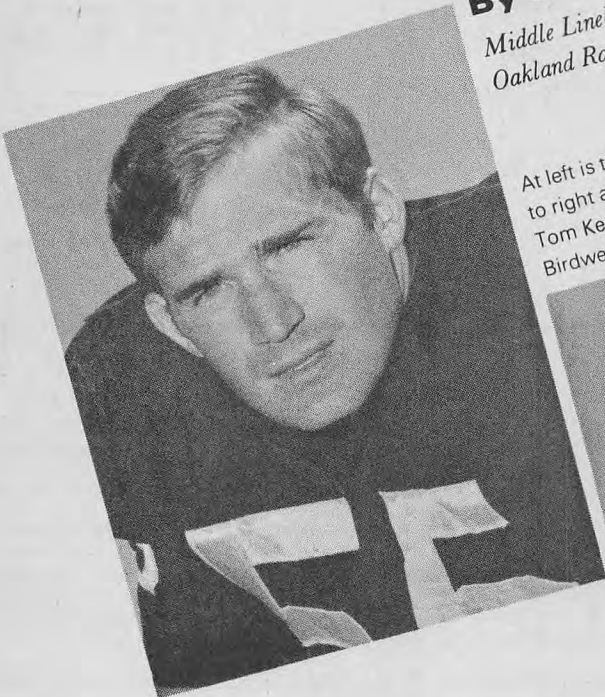
Without question the loss of Leroy Mitchell, traded to Houston, will be a mortal one. Johnson had a fair rookie year after he settled down. Carwell did some impressive things at Houston, but both he and Daryl are right corners. Subs Porter and Outlaw so-so. PERF. QT.: 4.

Webb has been anonymous for eight seasons, but he's among the more reliable defenders. He's been compared to George Saimes of Buffalo as an open-field tackler. Charles gets careless at times. Maybe he's more at home as corner? Johnson, McMahon relieve. PERF. QT.: 3.

By Dan Conners

*Middle Linebacker
Oakland Raiders*

At left is the author, middle linebacker Dan Conners. From left to right are some of his teammates: top row—George Atkinson, Tom Keating, Kent McCloughan and Ralph Oliver; bottom row—Dan Birdwell, Willie Brown, Bill Laskey and Duane Benson.



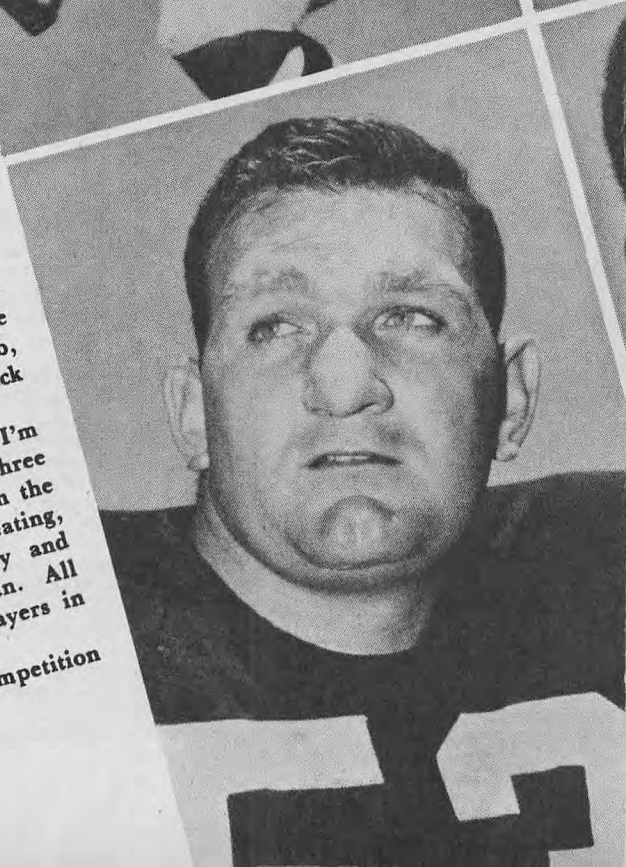
*Defense is an 11-man
job on the AFL Western
champs, the Raiders',
linebacker writes*

11-MAN THEME

Last year, the Western Division title race in the American Football League was one of the closest in our history. Going down the stretch, three teams—the San Diego Chargers, the Kansas City Chiefs and my own club, the Oakland Raiders—all had a crack at winning it.

Our defensive unit, on which I'm the middle linebacker, suffered three really damaging injuries early in the season. We lost tackle Tom Keating, outside linebacker Bill Laskey and cornerback Kent McCloughan. All three are among the best players in the league.

Yet despite that tough competition





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Gus Otto, left, is one of the Oakland linebackers competing for an outside job. Bill Budness, right, is the reserve middle man.

11-MAN THEME/continued

and those three injuries (plus many others), we won the division title. We won it by losing only two games, just one more than the previous season when we were healthy.

How do you explain it? One big reason I can think of *esprit de corps*, a feeling of "one for all and all for one."

Take the situation when Kent McCloughan was hurt. A rookie, George Atkinson, replaced him. It's plenty tough out there at corner. He's all alone. Just him and the guy he's covering.

We couldn't give George that much help at his position, because we don't play a lot of zone coverage. So it's really rough. It's just Willie Brown, a fine athlete, on one side, and Atkinson on the other.

But I feel that we helped him in other ways. When a guy makes a mistake out there, our team doesn't get on him. On the contrary, we'll tell him "the hell with it," or "forget it." We feel that one man doesn't win a game by himself, nor does one man lose it by himself. That's not just a philosophy, it's the truth.

We have a different type of defense. There are no superstars out there for us. We get along better for it. The 11-man theme is what it takes. I'm not against superstars, mind you, but I know there are players making superstar's salaries on other teams and they're not earning it.

Our defense is predicated on the 11-man unit. We don't depend on the great pass rush. Some of our line has kicked around in other places. We don't have great linebackers. We don't have great backs. But all of us together mean championship.

A good example of what I mean is

Dan Birdwell. Last year, all of a sudden, people discovered Dan. They thought he came up with a great year to help out when Keating got hurt. But Birdwell is really a terrific football player and he always has been. He was just underrated, doing his job in our system.

Willie Brown is another guy people don't notice a lot. But you know he's effective, because nothing happens on his side of the field. When a cornerback has a lot of inactivity, you can be pretty sure he's doing his job.

The ability of our young guys to step in should help us even more this year by providing extra competition. When Laskey and Duane Benson were hurt, for instance, Ralph Oliver, a rookie, started and played effectively. He came a long way. He matured and he knew what he was doing.

Now this year there will be some interesting competition among Laskey, Benson, Oliver and Gus Otto for those two outside jobs, and Bill Budness gives me competition in the middle.

Competition helps this team.

Our defensive unit is noted for making the big play, too.

We make the big play because we're well prepared, well drilled, tough mentally and attention has been given to our training. Our training camps are plenty rugged. We work hard seven days a week. Two-a-day sessions on Sundays, sometimes including scrimmages, are unheard of with some other pro teams. With us they're routine. And it pays off.

This season we'll be playing under our third head coach since 1965. He's John Madden, who I'm sure will do a good job.

But we've learned to get the job done no matter who is doing the coaching. We've found that if you work hard, you stay on top.

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QUARTERBACKS/ from pg. 72

ideal place to do it. So the Bills traded Lamonica to the Raiders in a multi-player deal in which they received quarterback Tom Flores as a replacement.

Lamonica promptly led the Raiders to the Super Bowl in his first season as a No. 1 quarterback. He was the AFL's 1967 Player of the Year. Buffalo, meanwhile, plunged downward after three straight title winning seasons.

And last year Buffalo had an agonizing quarterbacking experience. Kemp was lost for the season with a knee injury suffered in a pre-season scrimmage. Flores could seldom play because of a shoulder problem. Rookie Dan Darragh started the season and was hurt. Kay Stephenson played some and was hurt. Benny Russell came in temporarily while on Army furlough. In desperation, flanker Ed Rutkowski threw passes instead of catching them. He hadn't been a quarterback since college.

Out West, Lamonica passed Oakland to a second straight divisional title.

Every year the staffs of the Browns, Packers and Lions have a golf outing in May. The site is alternated among Cleveland, Green Bay and Detroit. It's a fun time. A few years ago it was in Cleveland. Blanton Collier, the Browns' coach, decided to invite the people from Pittsburgh and make it a foursome. Riding in a golf cart with Bill Austin, the Steelers' coach then, Collier started discussing a young quarterback. Austin didn't particularly care for the young man. But the Browns had not been particularly inspired under the guidance of Frank Ryan, whom they'd taken years ago in a trade with the Rams. The young quarterback under discussion was Bill Nelsen, and a trade was eventually arranged that moved him to Cleveland from Pittsburgh.

In the fourth game last year, when the Browns lagged with a 1-2 record, Collier replaced Ryan with newcomer Nelsen. The Browns promptly responded by winning nine of their remaining 11 games, plus the Eastern playoff. Bill Nelsen was in the NFL championship game where his team was a loser.

The quarterback who beat him? It was that old itinerant, Earl Morrall.

yet. I went to cut on Dave Robinson and the turf slipped from right under my foot. That's what caused my ankle injury and my ankle injury caused my knee injury.

I've been asked if maybe it wouldn't be a good idea for teams to rotate two sets of backs to prevent injuries. I don't really think so. A back gets the feel of the game after a while. In the first quarter, he might not gain more than four or five yards. Then he gets the feel of the game and the adrenalin is all worked up and now

he's ready to perform. Why take him out then? A running back should play as much as possible. But you'll notice in the league today they do spell a back after he's made a long play. He'll come back a play later. A back is better fresh than exhausted.

I never think about getting hurt. I couldn't do that and do my job. The only injuries that stopped me from playing were the one to my thigh when I missed two games as a rookie and my knee. I had my nose broken in my first pro game at Green Bay. The second week I played with an aluminum H guard over it and got it broken again.

This is something that a professional football player must do—play with injuries. You're going to get hurt sometimes. I think the difference between a great player and a mediocre player is one plays when he's hurt. I tried it last year, but it didn't work.

I'd like to see what I could do if I played all 14 games, the whole season. Personally, I'd like to carry the ball at least 25 times a game. At least 25 and catch a couple of passes. If I could run 25 times a game, 14 games a year, I feel there'd be no doubt about it. I think I could make 1,000 yards. But first I have to play 14 games.



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VINTAGE/ from pg. 23

started during an autumn of discontent. They included the first three picks: defensive end Tim Rossovich, halfback Cyril Pinder and linebacker Adrian Young (until an appendectomy). No. 9, center Mike Evans, beat out veteran Gino Ceppetelli, and Mark Nordquist got some work at guard.

PITTSBURGH—Surprisingly, the sadsack Steelers started no frosh. Mike Taylor, the No. 1 pick, gets a fresh opportunity under Coach Chuck Noll. He's an offensive tackle.

ST. LOUIS—Bob Atkins, another fine athlete from Grambling, started at corner. MacArthur Lane, the first pick, saw backup service from a running backslot, as did Cid Edwards. Jerry Daanen worked as wide receiver and showed great promise.

SAN DIEGO—Russ Washington, one of the two first-round picks, started all season at defensive tackle. Placekicking long had been a Charger failing, but Dennis Partee (No. 11) made it a plus. Two high ones, defensive back Jimmy Hill and center-guard Bill Lenkaitis, get a fresh chance. Hill was hurt all season and Lenkaitis didn't even sign a contract until November.

SAN FRANCISCO—Bill Belk, a sixth-round pick, played so well at defensive end that the 49ers felt secure in trading Clark Miller to the Giants. Tom Hart is another defensive end who started some. No. 1 pick Forrest Blue was slowed by injuries. Hardy played well, although not regularly, after he came from New Orleans. Kicker Dennis Patera got some action when Tommy Davis was hurt. Cas Banaszek worked in at offensive tackle and showed great promise.

WASHINGTON—The saddest story of all. Defensive back Yazoo Smith was one of the brighter lights in the capital, only to have his career ended by a broken neck at the end of the season. Mike Bragg, a No. 5 pick, was the punter. Gary Beban will get his chance this year.

This year the big names are O.J. Simpson, Leroy Keyes, Terry Hanratty, Joe Greene, Greg Cook, Ron Sellers, Larry Smith, Jim Seymour, Rufus Mayes, Dave Foley.

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GIANTS / from pg. 32

the run exceptionally well. Spider Lockhart operates with excellence on pass coverage at free safety. Willie Williams became one of the NFL's best cornerbacks last year and was the NFL interception champion. Scott Eaton, now in his third year, is a hard tackler against runs, but retains the tendency to play loose and yield short passes to keep from being burned. There is some defensive backfield depth with Jimmy Holifield and rookie Al Brenner.

Pete Gogolak is always steady as a placekicker. But Koy's punting job could be lifted by rookie Steve Smith.

More of the same for the Giants this year—7-7.

overall secondary is not one of the Cowboys' strong points.

Mike Clark has improved the Cowboys' field goal range and Ron Widby helped the punting.

From many standpoints, this is the year the Cowboys have to win, finally. NFL pride almost depends on it.

BALTIMORE / from pg. 44

Super Bowl and is normally more reliable. Dave Lee never has been able to punt as well as he did a few years ago as a rookie.

The two games with the Rams again should determine whether the Colts can get back into the playoff rounds and maybe into the NFL championship game. And maybe even into the Super Bowl. Maybe even against the Jets.

But more likely Baltimore will go only as far as the NFL title game. There's no way the NFL wants the Colts to take its championship with them into the AFL.

RAMS / from pg. 46

can drop back on pass coverage. Purnell, traded from Chicago to Atlanta to Philadelphia to LA in less time than it takes to tell about it, gives depth to this region, a vital factor when you recall Baughan's previous knee problems.

The linebackers—Pottios, Baughan and Jack Pardee—don't have to concern themselves with blitzing with the Fearsome Foursome in business. They can drop back on pass coverage.

The defensive backfield will be better with Petitbon at strong safety in collaboration with weak-side man Ed Meador. Clancy Williams and, probably, Ron Smith will be the cornerbacks.

Kicking is important because of the Rams' tendency to sputter on a lot of drives. Bruce Gossett does the field goal work. His kicks accounted for three victories and a tie last year. In addition there is the always present threat on returns by Ron Smith.

Someday Allen is going to trade the Rams right into the Super Bowl, maybe even this year if Baltimore can be beaten.

DALLAS / from pg. 36

middle. The corners—Cornell Green and Mel Renfro—are fast and good coverage men. Safeties Mike Gaechter and Dick Daniels are adequate. The

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CHIEFS/ from pg. 76

cornerbacks. In fact Johnny Robinson, the free safety, is among the most skilled in the AFL. On the strong-side Jim Kearney did an able job, except against the really top tight ends. The corners are something else. Goldie Sellers goes to sleep at the wrong moments. Stram feels Emmitt Thomas still has possibilities. The big hope is for rookie Jim Marsalis, the No. 1 draft.

The Chiefs haven't lost a half dozen December games in nine AFL seasons. If the tradition can be maintained this year it will pay off. There is a playoff involving the first two teams in each division this time. Considering the Chiefs' track record, they could be the strongest club in the title round.

BENGALS/ from pg. 82

Phillips was up and down as a rookie, but his potential is among the highest on the squad. The strong safety, Bobby Hunt, had a fine year. He represents one of the few worthwhile prizes from the expansion draft.

As a team, the Bengals intercepted 10 passes. The next worse AFL team doubled that figure.

Paul Brown proved that pro football hasn't passed him by. But pro football proved it will be a long time before Paul Brown dominates any league again.

OILERS/ from pg. 86

The biggest need on defense is for a better pass rush. It depends on how closely end Pat Holmes can approach his 1967 performance and how healthy tackle George Rice stays. Holmes was a plague on all quarterbacks two years ago, but a sometimes thing in '68. Rice has been hurt in two of his three pro seasons. He had knee surgery last year. The other end, Elvin Bethea, is one of the bright young players in the East. He's quick and strong. The other tackle, Willie Parker, is capable of big things if he stays interested.

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DOLPHINS/ from pg. 90

Edmunds, the other outside man, played fairly well as a rookie last year.

The cornerbacks, Dick Westmoreland and Jim Warren, are most vulnerable when they have to go one-on-one, but Wilson feels that Buoniconti's presence can eliminate some of that. One puzzle was the switch of Dick Anderson from strong-side to free safety. With Willie West retired, the strong-side job goes to little Bobby Petrella. Reserves Bobby Neff and Tom Beier don't figure in long-range plans, but rookie Willie Pearson could help somewhere.

PATRIOTS/ from pg. 92

warts, free safety Don Webb and strong safety John Charles, are coming off injuries. Art McMahon filled in for Webb, but intelligence doesn't make up for lack of speed in the pros as it did at North Carolina State. Daryl Johnson had a fair rookie year at corner. Subs Billy Johnson and Willie Porter could be swept out by Rush's broom.

Cheyunski assumed Buoniconti's job after Nick underwent knee surgery late last year. He looked good, except for a few mental mistakes. If he can't beat out Caveness, it won't be a good sign. Ron couldn't start at Houston and KC in the days when there were openings for a middle backer. Ed Philpott's poor agility and questionable eyesight make him a target for quarterbacks, although he thumps the run. He might be a better defensive end than outside linebacker. Doug Satcher on the other side is good enough to get you beat. Young Ed Koontz might be a better risk.

Tackle Houston Antwine remains the best of the remaining Patriot defensive stars, but his supporting cast looks a lot less menacing. Rush still has hopes for Dennis Byrd, either at end or tackle. If Eisenhower can't hack it, Funchess may be brought over from the offensive line. At 6-6 he might make a tough pass rusher.

As Rush says, "There's a long way to go."

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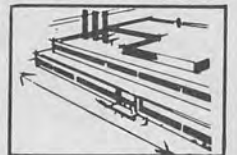
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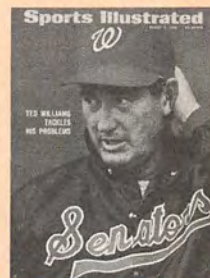
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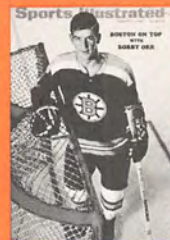
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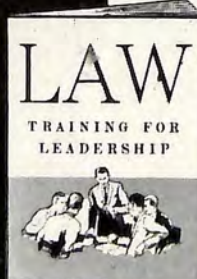


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